

Fateh rebels threaten Spain

BEIRUT (R) — An anonymous caller speaking on behalf of the Abu Musa Fateh dissident faction on Saturday demanded that Spain free a Palestinian charged with last week's suitcase bomb attack at Madrid's Barajas airport. Thirteen people were injured and a Spaniard and a Palestinian named Nasser Hassan Al Ali were charged and remanded without bail on Friday by a Madrid court. "While Fateh movement warns the Spanish government against any offence against him (Ali), it demands his immediate release," the caller told an international news agency in Beirut. The Madrid court was told Ali was a member of a dissident faction of the Fateh movement and had helped prepare the bomb that exploded as it was about to be loaded in a suitcase onto a Tel Aviv-bound flight of the Israeli airline El Al.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية الراي

Sudan, Egypt differ on some issues

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's head of state Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani said on Saturday his talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak were identical on some issues and close on others. Diplomats said the remark, made at the end of a three-day state visit, suggested the two leaders did not see eye to eye on all subjects covered in their only session of talks. Mr. Mirghani came here to set the tone in relations between Cairo and Khartoum, where an army coup deposed President Jaafar Numeiri 15 months ago. "Our talks were very successful. Our views were identical on some issues and close on others," Mr. Mirghani said with elaboration. Egypt fears the growing influence of its foe Libya in Khartoum since Mr. Numeiri's ouster might drive a wedge between the two countries, despite repeated assurances by both leaders that their relations were "special, distinct and immortal."

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East German minister arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — East German Deputy Minister of Higher Education Gunter Hydon arrived here via Ramtha on Saturday at the head of a delegation from the East German Ministry of Higher Education on a two-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the German official will hold talks with Minister of Higher Education Nasseruddin Al Assad on cooperation between the two countries and will also meet with the University of Jordan President Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali to discuss scope of cooperation between the university and East German universities.

Benjedid asked to take rest

ALGIERS (R) — Doctors have ordered Algerian President Chadli Benjedid to rest for two weeks, the official news agency APS said Saturday. It quoted a statement issued by the president's office as saying Mr. Benjedid, 56, had been ill for several days but did not say what he was suffering from.

Indonesia 'never to have nuclear weapons'

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, which plans to begin building a nuclear power plant in 1988, will never make or use nuclear weapons, the official Antara news agency reported Saturday. Antara quoted Indonesia's Atomic Energy Agency Director Djali Ahimsa as saying that Indonesia as a member of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty only seeks peaceful uses for nuclear power. "We will have the potential to build nuclear weapons, but we do not have the intention to do so," he told a nuclear energy seminar.

Church of England opposes services by foreign-ordained women priests

YORK, England (AP) — The Church of England's policy-making synod on Saturday rejected a motion to allow women ordained in the Anglican movement abroad to conduct services in England. Before the vote, Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie had urged the synod of 574 bishops, clergy and laity to pass the measure, warning that rejection would threaten the unity of the Anglican movement.

Marcos claims having African asylum offers

MANILA (AP) — Ex-President Ferdinand Marcos said in an interview published Saturday that Gabon, the Ivory Coast and Ghana have offered him asylum in exchange for his help in building their economies. Marcos, interviewed by the weekly news magazine New Day, also denied allegations that he ordered a whitewash in last year's trial of 25 soldiers and a civilian charged in the assassination of his rival, Benigno Aquino. All 26 were acquitted of murder charges.

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King requests government to reform higher education

■ His Majesty, in message to premier, regrets

Yarmouk incidents and calls for measures to safeguard Jordan's educational process

■ Whoever tries to tamper with our institutions is also trying to tamper with the destiny of nation

■ All gaps should be closed, regardless of size, origin

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has requested the government of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to introduce measures aimed at developing higher education in Jordan and to plug loopholes in education, legislation, administration and organisation for the sake of safeguarding Jordanian educational institutions and maintaining the people's confidence in the future.

In a message addressed to Mr. Rifai, King Hussein said he was pained upon reading a report submitted by a ministerial committee on the recent events at Yarmouk University, and "finds it necessary that a number of matters should be redressed and higher educational institutions reformed in a manner that can

and the Jordanian people to whom we are proudly affiliated and belong.

You do realise, like all other Jordanians and observers of this region in general and Jordan in particular, that the state of stability and security which our Kingdom has been enjoying over the past 15 years is a source of tranquility and national pride for all and a motive for our people to achieve further development and progress. This country has also been the focus of envy of our enemies and a source of appreciation and admiration for our friends.

But this situation, characterised with positivism and amity prevailing in the Jordanian family, has been exposed to attack and harmful action by a malicious group that aimed at diverting it from the sound and prosperous course of things and disturbing life

in our country. This malicious group has chosen Yarmouk University as a ground for sowing its ill-bred and evil ideas and as a springboard for its deviationist activities, away from the firm and sound course this country has been following.

This group has exploited students' academic complaints and tried through a stray group of students to direct students from their scientific and educational orientation to a political course that can only serve this group's purposes and objectives. This malicious group, through planning and for their own reasons, has been able to transform a peaceful and civilised dialogue into a state of riot and demagogic action which is alien to our society and its open-minded nature.

This action has led to

(Continued on page 4)

Syria may send in more troops to reinforce west Beirut peace

BEIRUT (Agencies) — About 500 elite Syrian troops and security men patrolled west Beirut on Saturday amid reports that Syria might reinforce its presence and take direct action to enforce peace.

Security sources told Reuters about 300 members of Syria's special forces, 150 security men and 80 military observers joined militiamen at roadblocks to ensure success of the latest security drive.

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam was reported as saying Damascus was determined to press ahead with the plan it sponsored a week ago to curb anarchy in the mainly Muslim western sector.

"We will send reinforcements if it is needed to impose security through a direct Syrian instrument," Mr. Khaddam, quoted by Beirut's As Safir newspaper, said.

In mostly Christian east Beirut, "Voice of Lebanon" radio said the return of Syrian troops to the

capital after four years was part of a two-week test of the latest peace pact.

If it failed, Syria might reinforce its forces and intervene directly, the radio added.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said Syrians in steel helmets and carrying Kalashnikov AK-47 automatic rifles emerged in west Beirut on Friday when they set up checkpoints and joined Lebanese soldiers and police on mobile patrols.

Syrian spokesmen in Beirut said there were fewer than 50 commandos and paratroopers of the Syrian army's crack special units patrolling west Beirut.

In another development, President Amin Gemayel was quoted Saturday as having said he would not give in to pressure by Syrian-backed Lebanese factions demanding his resignation.

"I shall stay through the rest of my term," Mr. Gemayel was quoted as telling senior Lebanese army officers.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami

has been calling on the president to step down, saying he would also resign along with his nine-man cabinet.

Mr. Karami contends Mr. Gemayel, who was elected for a six-year term in Sept. 1982, had failed to resolve Lebanon's civil war and should make way for a new administration to end the conflict.

Mr. Gemayel's remarks were broadcast by state-run and privately owned Beirut radios and published by most of Beirut's newspapers.

A Christian militia source meanwhile reacted with caution to Syria's fresh military presence in the western sector.

"We are watching with caution... and consider it to be aimed at the Palestinian presence in west Beirut. We also see it as a move to ensure Syrian hegemony (over west Beirut)," he said.

Syrians deployed in residential areas and at a major militia

(Continued on page 3)

Reagan hopeful about Soviet stand on arms

NEW YORK (Agencies) — President Reagan has sounded a series of positive notes in recent days about the Kremlin's stance on arms control and continues to hope for progress at a prospective second Soviet-American summit.

During a meeting on Friday with French President Francois Mitterrand, who was here to participate in Statue of Liberty rededication ceremonies (see page 8), Mr. Reagan said he believed the Soviet Union was eager to conclude an arms control agreement and that verification was the main sticking point.

Mr. Mitterrand travels to Moscow next week to meet with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and a White House spokesman told reporters the United States would be pleased if the French leader reiterated the administration's desire to make a deal.

"Washington and Paris see eye to eye on all major facets of our relations with the Soviet Union," said Mr. Reagan's spokesman Larry Speakes.

He said Mr. Reagan and Mr. Mitterrand agreed there should be a second superpower summit "and that it be held as soon as possible." But Speakes said Mr. Mitterrand

made it plain he had no intention of acting as an intermediary during his visit to the Soviet Union.

"France speaks for itself. France does not claim to speak for anyone else. France will be true to her own interests and faithful to the (NATO) alliance," Speakes quoted the French leader as saying.

In Moscow, the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, Arthur Hartman, on Friday renewed appeals by Washington for a second superpower summit.

In an address broadcast on the main Soviet television news programme, to mark the U.S. Independence Day national holiday, Mr. Hartman said the U.S. administration felt a summit was important for progress in arms control.

His statement followed an Independence Day message from the Soviet Union to Mr. Reagan calling for practical efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons and prevent an arms race in space.

In New York, a spokeswoman for Mr. Mitterrand said the U.S. and French presidents did not discuss on Friday the American bombing of Libya.



His Majesty King Hussein receives Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id of Oman who arrived in Aqaba on Saturday on a private visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Qaboos arrives in Aqaba on private visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id of Oman arrived in Aqaba on Saturday on a several-day private visit to Jordan. He was received upon arrival by His Majesty King Hussein.

Also at hand to receive Sultan Qaboos was Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and a number of senior civil and military officials.

Accompanying Sultan Qaboos

is a delegation comprising Deputy Prime Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs Qais Al Zawawi, Minister of Communications Ahmad bin Abdullah Al Harithi and a number of senior officials.

The official Omani news agency reported earlier that Sultan Qaboos would also visit Egypt.

The agency said the Sultan would later go on to Europe, but did not specify his destination.

Sultan Qaboos last year followed state visits to Jordan and Egypt with a visit to Europe, where he saw British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher privately at Chequers, her official country residence.

Hart criticises U.S. inaction on Mideast peace efforts

CAIRO (Agencies) — U.S. Senator Gary Hart, after wide-ranging talks on Saturday with President Hosni Mubarak, said the U.S. administration had shown lack of action over the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Hart, front runner for the Democratic presidential nomination, is on a fact-finding tour that has already taken him to Jordan and is due to fly on to Israel.

"I have been somewhat critical of this administration for not being more feasible and active in moving that (peace) process forward," he told reporters.

He said he discussed with Mr. Mubarak Egypt's key role in the continuing peace process, regional security and how the U.S. Congress can help Egypt meet its economic challenges.

Egypt, which receives about \$2.2 billion in U.S. aid, has sought relief from payments on high interest U.S. loans for past purchases of military equipment.

Cairo owes the U.S. more than \$4.5 billion on arms purchases and was due to pay some \$550 million this year.

Mr. Mubarak told reporters he hoped the United States "will act fast to reduce the interest on our debt... all American envoys who come here understand the Egyptian viewpoint well. And we have many friends in Congress."

Defence Minister Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala dismissed the Egyptian request for debt interest cuts during a visit to Washington last month.

Mr. Hart said Saturday Israel and Egypt were working "in good faith" for Middle East peace and also expressed hope for an expanded American effort in support.

"I think, basically, that the two principal parties, in this case Israel and Egypt, are operating in good faith in an effort to continue that process," Mr. Hart said.

With U.S. help, Egypt and Israel signed the 1979 treaty, Mr. Hart noted, however, there has not been "that much movement" lately toward Arab-Israeli negotiations to settle the Palestinian problem and he blamed this partly on Washington.

"I have been somewhat critical of this (U.S.) administration for not being more visible and active in moving that process forward," Mr. Hart said. "But I am not here to criticise the present administration. I think that the United States has a key role to play and I hope that role will continue and expand."

"I am here primarily to listen and to learn, and I listened a good deal and learned a great deal," Mr. Hart said.

Assad receives Fayeze

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad received at the presidential palace on Saturday Mr. Akel Al Fayeze, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament and president of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU).

President Assad and Mr. Fayeze discussed Arab parliamentary issues, current Arab issues as well as relations between Jordan and Syria, the Jordanian News

Agency, Petra, said. Attending the meeting were Speaker of the Syrian People's Assembly Mahmoud Al Zou'bi and the Minister plenipotentiary at the Jordanian embassy in Damascus, Nayef Al Hadid.

Mr. Fayeze is currently on a visit to Syria in his capacity as the head of a special APU committee, which is entrusted with seeking ways and means to settle Arab differences.

9 more killed in S. Africa; Tutu refuses to meet Howe

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South Africa on Saturday reported nine more deaths in political violence and anti-apartheid churchman Desmond Tutu said he would not waste time meeting British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, due here soon on a peace mission.

Bishop Tutu, a Nobel Peace laureate and archbishop-elect of Cape Town, also said he had asked to meet President P.W. Botha to discuss a three-week-old state of emergency (see page 8).

The state bureau for information said blacks with rifles had killed five black local government officials in two townships near Johannesburg in the past 24 hours.

In Soweto, Johannesburg's black township, security forces shot dead a 19-year-old black man on the grounds of a high school.

No other details were disclosed. In the Kanyamazane township, east of Nelspruit near the Mozambique border, the burned body of a black man was found, apparently slain by other blacks.

Bishop Tutu announced in a press conference that he had no plans to meet Mr. Howe.

Asked if he would see Mr. Howe, he said: "No, that is quite clear. I don't waste my time... I am sick and tired of trying to persuade people overseas. I've spent too much of my time trying to do that."

"I think Sir Geoffrey ought to go back home and try and persuade the iron lady that her best interests and those of Britain are served by trying to destroy apartheid," Tutu added, referring to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher by her nickname.

Rains could dissolve Nakasone's hopes in polls

TOKYO (R) — Thunderstorms forecast across Japan on polling day on Sunday could dampen Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone's chances of retaining power for an unprecedented third term.

Mr. Nakasone, who has staked his political future on delivering a thumping general election win for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), brushed aside opinion poll predictions that he was heading for a landslide when he wound up his campaign on Saturday.

"I am not optimistic. I think it will be tough," the 68-year-old prime minister told reporters.

He dismissed pollsters' predictions that the LDP would storm home with a clear working majority by winning 271 seats in the 512-seat Lower House of parliament.

And the weather forecast gave LDP chiefs the jitters, the election that could decide whether Mr. Nakasone rules from the front or

is manoeuvred backstage to join other party elders who pull the strings of political power is being held in the middle of Japan's rainy season.

Weathermen said there could be storms all over the country on Sunday. The LDP traditionally relies on the vote of the conservative elderly and a low turnout because of rain could dissolve Mr. Nakasone's hopes of hauling his party out of a coalition.

About 86 million people were eligible to vote from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. (2200 GMT Saturday to 0900 GMT Sunday) to elect parliament's powerful Lower House from 838 candidates and half of the 252 Upper House seats from 506 candidates.

Counting will start 14 hours after polling booths close (2300 GMT Sunday). The general trend should be clear within few hours, although the final results will not be known before midnight on Monday (1500 GMT).

The Jordan Times' new telephone numbers: 667171-6 and 670141-4

Suez ban on nuclear ships ignored in Enterprise transit

ISMAILIYA, Egypt (R) — The Suez Canal authority won't lift its ban on nuclear-powered ships until it is convinced they can make routine passages safely through the canal, says the canal's top operations officer.

Last spring's approval for the transit of the U.S. aircraft carrier Enterprise and two nuclear-powered support ships was a political decision, he said, taken despite the canal authority's recommendation that the request be denied.

"Any such case ... is a very special case, and it is a political decision," said Capt. Ali Nasr, the authority's deputy director of transit.

"Maybe we (at the authority) don't see it ourselves, but it is a decision coming from the top of the country and putting in consideration a kind of safety for the world."

He said nuclear transits require "very, very special arrangements" to minimise risk. "It should be a very, very special case to have such a ship pass through the canal," Capt. Nasr said.

Washington asked last April that a battle group including the Enterprise and the nuclear-powered cruisers Truxton and Arkansas be allowed through the canal to join two other carrier groups on station in the Mediterranean Sea.

The transit occurred on April 29, two weeks after U.S. warplanes attacked Tripoli and other Libyan cities to hit back at Col. Muammar Qadhafi, the

Libyan leader, "for" alleged support of international terrorism.

Egyptian sources said President Hosni Mubarak personally made the decision. They said Mr. Mubarak listened to the objections of Mohammad Ezzat Adel, the Suez Canal Authority's chairman, then asked if it was physically possible for the Enterprise to make the transit. Told that it was, Mr. Mubarak reportedly ordered it done.

The Enterprise's Mediterranean deployment ended last week, and the battle group set out for the Indian Ocean around the Cape of Good Hope, a trip requiring at least 15 days, rather than the two-day jaunt through the canal and the Red Sea.

Pentagon officials complained privately that the longer journey was forced on the Americans by Cairo's refusal to make a decision on Washington's request to use the canal.

In Cairo, however, a U.S. embassy official said that no official request was made. The canal authority's Capt. Nasr said no request came to his office, which would have been consulted if permission had been requested through official channels.

Mr. Mubarak told the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram this week that a study is under way to determine regulations covering

canal transits by nuclear-powered ships. He said they include safety precautions, extraordinary fees and compensation levels in case of accidents.

Officials in Washington said Egypt billed the United States about \$500,000 in additional transit fees for the Enterprise's transit. They said the bill is under negotiation.

Before the Enterprise battle group steamed through last April, Capt. Nasr said, all dredging and other work on the canal was stopped. Dredgers were towed away from the channel and the normal convoy schedule disrupted to get the nuclear ships through quickly.

The 192-kilometre passage, which normally takes 14 to 16 hours, was completed in 10 hours, 42 minutes, Capt. Nasr said. The idea was "just to get rid of (the Enterprise) as quickly as possible."

Safety is the key to the canal authority's objections to nuclear-powered ships, Capt. Nasr said.

Before allowing passage as a matter of course, he said, "we should be properly prepared to face any kind of accident (to ensure) the safety of the people of the area."

He said the Americans have assured Egypt that their nuclear-powered ships are safe but "even if the accidents are rare ... you have to prepare yourself to face such accidents."

The April 26 nuclear accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Soviet Ukraine proves "it can happen," Capt. Nasr said.

Achille Lauro prosecution wraps up case

GENOA, Italy (AP) — The prosecutors in the Achille Lauro hijack trial Saturday urged the jury to reject defence arguments that the defendants aren't terrorists but fighters for a Palestinian homeland.

Prosecutors Luigi Carli had his last chance to press the state's case against Mohammed Abbas, the Palestinian leader accused of masterminding the Oct. 7 hijacking, and 14 other

defendants. Ten of the defendants, including Abbas, are being tried in absentia.

Abbas heads the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), a faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Among those in custody are the young Palestinian commandos who seized the Italian liner after it made an Egyptian port call during

a Mediterranean cruise. One of the hijackers, Youssef Magid Al Molqi, is accused of killing Leon Klinghoffer, a 69-year-old invalid New Yorker, and ordering crewmembers to dump his body and wheelchair overboard.

Carli, in final arguments, referred to defence assertions that the hijackers aren't terrorists, but waging a just fight for a Palestinian homeland.

Denktash allows U.N. troops to stay until Dec. 15

NICOSIA (Agencies) — The Turkish Cypriot government said Friday it would allow the U.N. peacekeeping force stationed in Northern Cyprus to stay until its permission expires on Dec. 15.

The decision was taken in a two-hour cabinet meeting in this divided capital, Defence Minister Kenan Atakol told reporters. He did not say what would happen after the Dec. 15 expiration date.

Mr. Atakol said the government also decided to permit entrance to the U.N. peacekeeping force stationed in the Southern Greek sector, but only on "humanitarian grounds" and under conditions to be set by Turkish Cypriot authorities.

President Rauf Denktash announced Friday he was closing all land borders of his break-away

territory in Northern Cyprus. Mr. Denktash said the move was in reaction to U.N. criticism of Turkish Premier Turgut Ozal's three-day visit and the closure of entry-exit points by Greek Cypriots during the trip to the Northern Turkish Cypriot sector.

"In order to show these quarters that we are also legitimate and that we have the same authority and control on the entry-exit points on both sides of the border, we declare as of this moment all entry-exit points of our border are closed," he said.

The strategic Mediterranean island was effectively divided into Northern Turkish and Southern Greek sectors when Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 following an Athens-backed coup aimed at uniting the island with Greece.

Turkish Cypriots unilaterally declared independence in 1983. Only Turkey recognises the breakaway "Republic of Northern Cyprus" while the Greek Cypriot government enjoys international recognition.

Mr. Denktash made his announcement immediately after Mr. Ozal left Northern Cyprus to fly back to Ankara at the end of his three-day controversial visit.

The U.N. secretary general, the British, United States, Soviet and other world governments have denounced Mr. Ozal's visit to the breakaway state which was declared "legally invalid" following its unilateral proclamation in November 1983. Meanwhile, the Greek Cypriots criticised the U.S. administration for its recent report on Cyprus. An

3 Syrian ministers in Tehran 'to expand economic relations'

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Three Syrian ministers arrived in the Iranian capital, Tehran, for talks to expand bilateral economic ties, Iran's official Tehran Radio reported Saturday.

The arrival of the three ministers was seen as a move toward settling serious differences that recently affected the close relations between Iran and Syria, its closest Arab ally in the Iran-Iraq war.

The radio said the ministers, Mohammad Ali Inadi (economy and foreign trade), Ghazi Al Dorabi (oil and mineral wealth) and Ali Al Trabulsi (industry) arrived in Tehran Friday and were greeted at Mehrabad Airport by Iranian Commerce Minister Hassan Abedi-Jafari.

"We are prepared to study issues raised by Iranian brothers particularly those dealing with oil and commercial ties," the radio quoted Mr. Inadi as saying on his arrival.

"The development of the two countries' economic relations is exceedingly important ... we will review bilateral cooperation in implementing various projects. We aim to fulfil the main objectives of this visit," he added.

The Syrian visit followed press reports last month of a cooling in Syrian-Iranian relations following moves toward a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation.

Syria has been at loggerheads with neighbouring Iraq, Iran's staunchest Arab ally in the 69-month-old Iran-Iraq war.

As part of its support for Iran, Syria soon after the outbreak of the war, blocked the export of Iraqi oil across the overland pipeline running through its territory to Mediterranean ports.

In return, Iran undertook to supply Syria with its oil needs at subsidised prices.

U.S. senator pleads for release of hostages

CHICAGO (AP) — A U.S. senator says he hopes his videotaped plea played on Lebanese television will help win the release of five kidnapped Americans being held hostage in the Middle East.

In the video, Sen. Alan J. Dixon of Illinois characterised the kidnapped Americans as "innocent victims in a larger struggle."

The 1½-minute message was aired several times Friday on television in Beirut, Sen. Dixon said. The tape was made in cooperation with the U.S. State Department.

Sen. Dixon said Friday he was "prayerfully hopeful that the plea will be considered." The timing of the message coincided with the U.S. Independence Day celebration.

"The fourth of July is a day on which Americans give special thanks for the freedoms they enjoy. I implore you: Let your American hostages go," Sen. Dixon said in the videotape.

Sen. Dixon said he sometimes wishes the U.S. government would do more to win release of the hostages. "I don't mean to be critical ... I just think that we don't see as much (effort) ... as we'd like to see," he said.

In addition to Rev. Jenco, who was head of Catholic Relief Services in Beirut, the other hostages are Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press; David Jacobson, administrator at the American University Hospital in Beirut; Thomas Sutherland, dean of agriculture at the American University, and William Buckley, political officer at the U.S. embassy in Beirut.

Palestinian journalist launches Hebrew paper

By Joel Greenberg
Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV — Ziad Abu Zayad, the East Jerusalem journalist and lawyer, is a man with a mission. His latest creation, a Hebrew-language Palestinian newspaper, is a vehicle through which he hopes to improve Israeli understanding of the Palestinians.

The bi-weekly paper is called Geshet (Bridge) and was to be distributed Saturday for the second time in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv after its pilot edition hit the newsstands a fortnight ago.

One thousand copies of the tabloid are to be distributed, though Abu Zayad says he has encountered some difficulty in getting Jewish newspaper vendors to carry the paper on their racks.

"Only two agreed to take the paper when it first appeared, and one of them put it on a bottom shelf, explaining that he didn't want problems. Some vendors told me they were worried they might be beaten up, something I didn't hear, three years ago when we distributed the Hebrew language edition of Al-Fajr."

Abu Zayad, 46, was the East

Jerusalem paper's Hebrew editor in 1982 and 1983.

He speaks fluent Hebrew, which he learned in 1968 at a Hebrew school for new immigrants at Jerusalem's Beit Ha'am, where he was the first Arab student to enroll. He has since appeared in a number of joint forums with Israelis, where he has used Hebrew to present his Palestinian nationalist opinions to Israeli audiences.

Geshet is divided into a number of sections: News from the territories and the Arab World; special features, including translations from the Arabic press abroad, a culture section; and translations from the local Palestinian press. News from the territories focuses mainly on Israeli security measures in the areas, including land expropriations, and demolition of houses.

Features in the first issue covered living conditions in the Deheish Refugee Camp, Arab student life at the Hebrew University, layoffs of foreign workers in the Arab oil states and translated interviews with PLO leaders. The culture section

featured reviews of Arabic studies and journals on Palestinian history, art and literature, as well as reviews of Palestinian novels and poetry.

Saturday's edition includes special features on Palestinian literature after the Lebanon war, the status of women in Egypt, and the debate in the Arab World on whether to reabsorb Oriental Jews were they to leave Israel.

The purpose of Geshet is to "enable Israelis to learn first-hand what is happening in the occupied territories," according to the paper's first editorial.

"The Israeli stereotypes can be changed by enabling Israelis to get to know the human side of the Palestinian people," Palestinian culture, folklore, and Arab society in general," the editorial continues.

Politically, the paper supports a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

Since the ideal of binational state is presently impossible, there must be "two states for two peoples, who will learn to live as neighbours in mutual respect," says the editorial.

Abu Zayad's editorial is published in both Hebrew and

Arabic, to reach critics who have charged that his moderate statements in Hebrew are not matched in his Arabic writing. He says the paper has been well received by his Arab colleagues.

The paper is currently running on a shoestring budget. Its staff of three Arabs and three Jews work in a sparsely furnished suite of rooms in East Jerusalem. Abu Zayad says funding for the paper comes mainly from his own pocket, though he hopes to cover his expenses by increasing sales.

Both Arab and Israeli advertisers prefer to advertise in the more largely circulated Hebrew press, and they are unlikely to place ads in Geshet unless it increases its circulation, he says.

He hopes that, by publishing stories which will attract the Israeli reader, including articles by Israeli contributors, he can increase interest in the paper. "The main idea is to show that we can publish a good, interesting paper," he says. "This can make Geshet viable."

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Bonn officials confirm Israeli link in illegal weapons deal with Iran

From the Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV — The state-attorney's office in Munich has confirmed that the name "Harel" appears in the investigation file of a planned illegal \$82m. arms deal with Iran that the West German weekly Stern claims was arranged by the Israeli government. Israeli officials have strongly denied that there is any official involvement in the alleged deal.

Ron Harel, who lives in Moshav Sde Hemed near Kfar Sava and is known to have been involved in several international trading companies, some of them dealing in arms, refused to comment on the report.

Stern reported that a Ron Harel had sent a telex on April 1, 1986, indicating a connection between the Israeli government and Henry Kamaniecky, a former Israeli citizen arrested in Munich in connection with the deal.

Both Prime Minister Peres and Defence Minister Rabin have denied Israel's involvement. Peres said on Israel TV on Wednesday night: "The fact that there are many Israelis who are looking for one opportunity or another — generally, a commercial opportunity in the realm of weaponry — does not obligate the state of Israel, and I suggest we do not place responsibility for actions of one or several individuals on the state."

The Munich state-attorney's office said that the investigation was only in its initial stages and that it was not yet known who was behind the planned deal. It would neither confirm nor deny the alleged involvement of the Israeli government.

The West German embassy in Tel Aviv said that, since the federal investigations office was not involved and the case was a local Munich matter, the embassy has no information about the affair.

The offence, if there was one, was against the West German law prohibiting the sale of weapons to "areas of tension."

'United Yemen would lead to pan-Arab unity'

LONDON (R) — Libya and South Yemen have declared that successful merger of North and South Yemen would be a big step on the road to Arab unity.

A joint statement after the visit to Tripoli this week by South Yemeni President Haider Abu Baker Al Attas said a united Yemen would be a major step towards achieving pan-Arab unity "in order to confront the deterioration experienced by the Arab nation in the absence of unity."

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi sponsored talks between Mr. Attas and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salih, who left Tripoli earlier, on unity between pro-Western Sanaa and Marxist-ruled Aden.

The meeting was the first between Mr. Salih and Mr. Attas since the latter assumed office in January.

Amal rejects report of collusion with Israel

BEIRUT (R) — The powerful Shiite Amal militia on Saturday denied an Israeli radio report that Amal fighters were cooperating with Israelis to keep Palestinian fighters from a so-called "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Israel Radio earlier broadcast an interview with a man it identified as Amal militiaman "Mahmoud Atweh", who said his forces were interested in peace with Israel.

A spokesman for Amal leader Nabih Beirri told Reuters in west Beirut that "Atweh" was not an Amal member, and he angrily denied the radio report of cooperation between Amal fighters and Israelis in the south.

"The report is ridiculous since this so-called leader Mahmoud Atweh is not known to anybody, including Amal," he said.

Atweh told the radio station his forces had received an explicit promise that Israel had no

intention of annexing the area Israelis call the "security zone."

Israel left hundreds of troops and plainclothes agents behind to patrol the zone after it withdrew the bulk of its troops from Lebanon in June 1985.

But Mr. Atweh, speaking in Arabic translated by Israeli Radio, said Israel had only partially succeeded in its declared aim of driving Palestinian Commandos out of Lebanon, which led to problems for his own men.

"They (Israel) came to distance the Palestinians from their border so they would not cause problems in this area ... but they moved the Palestinians only half the way and left us with them," he said.

Amal leaders have claimed responsibility for preventing Palestinian commandos from returning to locations within range of northern Israel.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

17:00 — Kanan
17:30 — Caribean
17:45 — Children's programme
18:20 — Documentary
19:05 — Local agricultural programme
19:40 — Programme review
20:20 — News programme
20:30 — News in Arabic
20:50 — News programme on Qatar
21:20 — Varieties programme
22:00 — News summary in Arabic
22:30 — Religious programme

PROGRAMME TWO

16:00 Live via satellite — Wimbledon Tennis Championship — Men's Singles Final
19:00 — News in French
19:15 — French varieties
19:30 — News in Hebrew
19:45 — Magazine Zero One
20:00 — News in Arabic
20:30 — Charlie and Company
21:10 — The World Challenge
22:00 — News in English
22:30 — Dallas

RADIO JORDAN
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Tel: 774111-19

07:00 — Light Music
07:30 — Newsweek
08:00 — Morning Show
10:00 — News Summary
10:10 — Pop Session
11:00 — In Concert
12:00 — News Summary
12:05 — Pop Session
12:30 — News Summary
12:35 — Pop Session
14:00 — News Bulletin
14:10 — Instruments
14:15 — Science Report
15:00 — Concert Hour
16:00 — News Summary
16:05 — Instruments
16:30 — Old Favorites
17:00 — Listener's Choice
18:00 — News Summary
18:05 — Jazz Hour
19:00 — Newsweek
19:30 — Date with a Star
20:00 — Evening Show
21:00 — News Summary
21:05 — Evening Show Cont.
21:55 — News Summary

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz

07:00 Newsday 07:30 The Best of British 07:45 Reflections 07:50 Financial Review 08:00 World News 08:05 24 Hour News Summary 08:30 The World's Top 100 08:45 Letter from America 09:00 Newsday 09:30 Jazz for the Aspiring 10:00 World News 10:20 24 Hour News Summary 10:30 From Our Own Correspondent 10:45 Sportsweek 11:00 World News 11:00 Reflections 11:15 The Pleasure's Yours 12:00 World News 12:05 British Press Review 12:15 Science in Action 12:45 The Piano Roll 13:00 News Summary 13:05 Short Story 13:15 Classical Record Review 13:30 Religious Service 14:00 World News 14:05 News from Britain 14:15 From Our Own Correspondent 14:30 Baker's Half Dozen 15:00 News Summary 15:05 Much Ado About Nothing 16:00 World News 16:05 Sportsweek 16:30 Sportsweek 16:45 Sportsweek 17:00 News Summary 17:15 Sportsweek 17:15 Sportsweek 20:00 World News 20:05 Reflections 20:15 The Medium 20:45 Sports Round-up 21:00 Newsday 21:30 Hollywood's Oscar Night 22:00 News Summary 22:05 Classical Record 22:15 Planning the Future 23:00 World News 23:05 24 Hour News Summary 23:10 Sunday Half-Hour 24:00 News Summary 24:05 Sportsweek 24:10 The Man on the Telephone 08:15 The Pleasure's Yours 01:00 World News

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260, KHz 7200, 9565, 1174, 11925 & 15210

07:00 News, Informal Presentation of Popular Music with Feature Reports, Interviews, Answers to Listener's Questions, Science Reports, Sports News at 30 minutes past the hour. Focus, Sunday Morning at 9:10, 18:00 News 18:30 News Horizons and News Products 18:50 Minute USA 19:00 News Sunday 20:00 News & Editorial 20:15 Concert Hall 20:30 News 20:30 News & Feature 20:40 News 20:40 News & Feature 20:50 News 21:00 News 21:10 Focus 21:30 Special English News & Features 22:00 News 22:10 Sunday Report 22:30 Music Sunday 22:40 News & Editorial 23:15 Concert Hall 24:00 News 00:10 News Horizons and News Products 00:30 Studio One

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An art exhibition by P. K. Hassan at the national art gallery (until July 10).

* Also Mabey portrait exhibition at the British Council (until July 8).

* A French exhibition entitled "La machine, les modes, la rue" at the French Cultural Centre (until July 24).

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267
American Centre Tel. 6443771
American Cultural Library Tel. 641520
British Council Tel. 6561718
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009
Goethe Institute Tel. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644303
Spanish Cultural Centre Tel. 620409
Turkish Cultural Centre Tel. 639777
Hayes Arts Centre Tel. 665195
Hussein Youth City Tel. 6671816
Y.W.C.A. Tel. 641793
Y.W.M.C.A. Tel. 664251
Amman Municipal Library Tel. 637111
University of Jordan Library Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Military and costumes over 100 years old. Also models from Madinet and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has no permanent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Grand Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museum, Jabal Luweibdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.
Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 637169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lease Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Lease Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle, Tel. 815261, 981410.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh, Tel. 677440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, Tel. 661757.
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdal, Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, Tel. 678906.
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, Tel. 771751.
Assiout International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, Tel. 677534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Sami), Tel. 811295.
Babylon Congregation (International, interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 609974.

PRAYER TIMES

05:54 — Fajr
07:35 — Sunrise (Sunrise)
12:40 — Dhuhr
16:21 — Asr
19:46 — Maghreb
21:28 — Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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ARRIVALS

09:15 — Agaba (RJ)
10:30 — Beirut (RJ)
10:45 — Cairo (RJ)
1

Home news

Jordan invites 400 delegates to second expatriates' conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has taken measures to ensure the success of the Second Jordanian Expatriates Conference, due to open here on July 14, and has invited 400 delegates from six Arab countries, as well as from Europe, America and Australia to take part in the meetings. Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan announced here Saturday.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that the conference, which will be held under royal patronage, will also be attended by representatives of the public and private sector, businessmen and professional and trade unions in Jordan.

This conference aims at bolstering expatriates' links with their home country and acquainting Jordanians living abroad with areas which ensure profitable investment, he said.

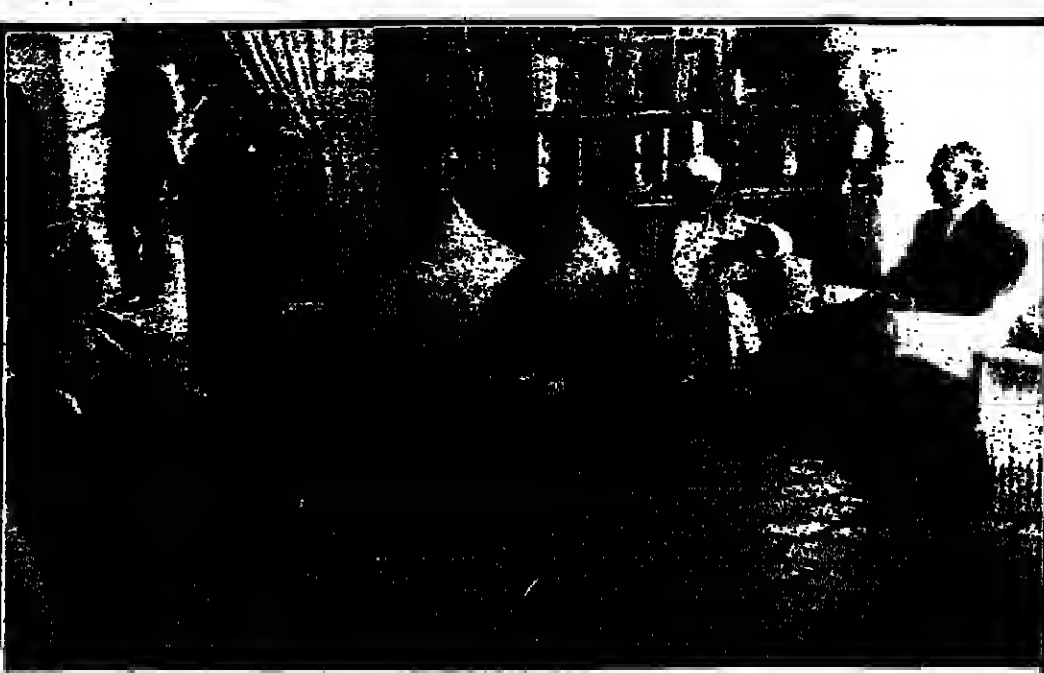
According to the minister, the conference will discuss four working papers, the first covering recommendations issued by the first conference which was held in Amman last summer and the second on Jordan's policies and major issues.

The third paper, he said, covers the general economic conditions in Jordan, development projects and areas for investment in agriculture, industry and tourism.

The fourth paper looks into the labour market in Jordan, employment policies and regulations for organizing employment of non-Jordanians, he continued.

The minister said that the delegates will be visiting factories in Raufa, the free zones in Zarqa and Sahab industrial city and will attend the Fifth Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts.

Mr. Haj Hassan said that 130 of the expatriates come from Saudi Arabia, 90 from Kuwait, 60 from Abu Dhabi, 30 from Jibai and Sharjah, 20 from Qatar, 15 from Bahrain, eight from Oman and the rest will come from Europe, North and South America and Australia.



TALKS IN AQABA: His Majesty King Hussein II meets with Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id of Oman following the Sultan's arrival in Aqaba on Saturday (Petra photo)

Jordan, Egypt agree on steps to facilitate operations along land-sea route

By Ahmad Kreishan
Al Ra'i

AMMAN — Jordan and Egypt have concluded talks in Nuweiba aimed at promoting the work of the Aqaba-Nuweiba land-sea route which links the two countries and both sides announced agreement on the settlement of a number of issues designed to facilitate travel, transport and customs procedures.

Egyptian Minister of Transport and Communications Suleiman Mitwalli told a press conference in Nuweiba that speedy measures for promoting trade and travel will be taken by the two countries. The minister, who was speaking after a four-hour meeting with his Jordanian counterpart Rajai Dajani, said that the meeting was aimed at finding means of further bolstering bilateral ties through facilitating travel between Egypt and Jordan.

Both sides discussed the issue of checking passports of travellers on board the ferry boats, the use of Jordanian and Egyptian licence plates on cars in each other's

territory and the amounts of foreign currency allowed by travellers, the minister said.

Mr. Mitwalli said that the issue of refrigerated trucks crossing into Egypt from Jordan and transporting goods via ferries operating along the route were also discussed at the meeting. He said that other meetings will be organized in the near future to discuss promoting trade and travel between the two sides.

According to Mr. Dajani, the issues discussed by the two sides were very complex and detailed but he added that the delegations arrived at positive results and effective solutions. He said that contacts with other Arab countries were underway to urge them to use the Aqaba-Nuweiba route for travel between the eastern and western flanks of the Arab World.

Mr. Dajani, who led the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, spoke at a press conference on board the ferry boat that carried him back to Aqaba and described the meeting as "successful." He said that both sides were satisfied with the

performance of the route over the past year.

Joint company

Mr. Dajani earlier announced that Egypt, Iraq and Jordan have agreed on measures to set up a \$6 million company to take charge of travel between the three countries. This company will be based in Amman and its capital will be shared equally by the three countries, he said.

Mr. Dajani made a tour of the facilities at Aqaba upon arriving in the port city and met with passengers and owners of trucks and heard their requests and complaints.

The land-sea route between the two sides, which was opened in April last year, has transported 645,000 passengers, 15,000 small cars, 2,600 trucks both ways, according to port sources in Aqaba.

The Jordanian delegation accompanying Mr. Dajani grouped representatives of the Ministry of Transport, the Ports Corporation and the Jordan National Shipping Lines.

JVA president stresses need for immediate water saving measures

Haddadin recommends more efficient water usage in agriculture to conserve already low reserves

By Monika Warich
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — President of the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Munther Haddadin has called for replacing old-fashioned and wasteful irrigation systems in the Jordan Valley and stressed the general need for water saving methods in farming all over Jordan, as well as in all other sectors of public and private life in the country.

The urgent need for water saving measures is becoming painfully clear after another poor rainy season in 1985/86 with only one relatively good year between the last insufficient rains in 1983/84, Dr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times. The problems this year were not only caused by too little rainfall, but also by a geographically uneven distribution of rainfall, with the agricultural north and north-eastern regions receiving 20 to 40 per cent less than the average amount of rainfall. In addition, two dry spells during the main growing season for wheat and other cereals could well mean poor harvests this year.

But for the Jordan Valley, another factor is even more important, namely the storage of rainwater in the King Talal reservoir and other dams, the main suppliers of water for irrigation in the valley. Dr. Haddadin explained that the rainfall in the last rainy season was not heavy enough to produce run-off so much of the rain water filtered into the soil and evaporated before it could flow down the wadis towards the valley. Consequently, the King Talal reservoir received only 20 per cent of the flood waters it gets during average years, equalling 10 million cubic metres (MCM) as opposed to 50 MCM, according to Dr. Haddadin. The Wadi Araba,

only half the normal amount of water.

Apart from these emergency measures, the JVA sees an absolute necessity to take steps to fundamentally improve the situation concerning irrigation and farming methods in the Jordan Valley. The JVA will, starting in October this year, replace old water distribution systems — mainly surface canals with low conveyance efficiency — with a new highly-effective pipe network. The first stage will supply 6,000 hectares of land with piped water for irrigation and is to be completed by 1988. The second stage of the project will extend the same service to the remaining 7,500 hectares of land and is scheduled to start in 1987.

It then remains the task of the farmers to improve on-farm irrigation by replacing potentially wasteful and inefficient surface canal distribution systems with advanced drip irrigations systems, which make much more economical use of the water as they bring the proper amount of water directly to the single plant. For this purpose, credit facilities and extension services should be readily available to the farmers through the JVA and other institutions, Dr. Haddadin said.

A recent increase in the price of irrigation water applies only to those farmers who do not follow the cropping patterns. Dr.



Munther Haddadin

Haddadin said, while the others still pay last year's prices. Neither the increased and the old price do not cover the actual costs of the water, according to experts.

Pipelines

Concerning water supplies for Amman through the new Deir-Alla pipeline, Dr. Haddadin said that for the time being, the JVA has agreed that the pipeline will only supply water to Amman during the winter months. To make up for this, the Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ), according to recent press reports, will double the quantity of water presently being pumped from Azraq to Amman (15 MCM/year). Plans for additional pumps, wells and a pipeline are presently being drawn up, at a projected cost of JD 25 million.

The King Talal Dam has received only 20 per cent of the flood waters of average years (J.T. file photo)

Department requests 500 fils levy on each passport to finance computer purchase

AMMAN (J.T.) — The passport department has requested the Prime Ministry to authorize it to collect a levy of 500 fils on each passport the department issues in order to raise funds for a JD 120,000 project to computerize the department's filing system, informed sources said Saturday.

The department, faced with the problem of having to store over two million files at the department's premises hopes that by having the whole process computerized it can upgrade its services. At present, citizens have

Tawjihi results due out at end of this month

AMMAN (J.T.) — The results of the tawjihi examinations, taken by the third secondary class students in Jordanian schools last month, will be released towards the end of this month, according to an announcement by Mr. Ahmad Al Taqi, the director of examinations at the Ministry of Education.

He said that the results are "good" and that the average is about the same as in previous years. A group of teachers charged with marking the examination papers have completed their work in Amman

Jordan marks international cooperative day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Saturday marked international cooperative day which falls on July 5 every year. Speaking on the occasion, Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Director General Hassan Al Nabulsi paid tribute to Jordanian cooperatives and to the major role they play in serving the Kingdom through the Jordanian cooperative movement.

He also called for extending support to Arab cooperatives in the occupied Arab territories to enable them to continue their steadfastness in the face of Israeli occupation.

Cooperative movements throughout the world are facing many problems but they have retained steadfastness and have developed in terms of volume and efficiency to serve cooperative goals, Mr. Nabulsi said.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, the JCO director general reviewed the history of the Jordanian cooperative movement and pointed out that the first legislation for Jordanian cooperatives was issued in 1952 and was the basis for setting up a cooperative movement to organize and develop cooperative work in the country. In 1968 the JCO was founded and since then it has been the only authority which supervises cooperative societies. The major goals of the JCO as stipulated in the cooperative law for 1971 are promoting the cooperative movement in the country, raising the social, economic and cultural standard of citizens, setting up cooperative societies throughout the country and providing guidance and technical services to their members, Mr. Nabulsi pointed out. He added that the Cooperative Institute was set up in 1963 and the Cooperative Bank was established to offer loans and other services to cooperative societies.

The JCO, he continued, is a member of many Arab and international unions and Mr. Nabulsi went on to say that the organisation's role has been very prominent in the past two five-year development plans through the many projects it implemented.

The number of cooperative societies rose from 389 in 1981 to 439 in 1985 and the number of members increased from 39,311 to 46,482 during the same period, the JCO director general noted.

Mr. Nabulsi hailed the steadfastness of Arab cooperatives in the occupied Arab territories and praised their self-reliance.

Ministries suggest ban on cattle imports remains in force

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministries of Supply and Agriculture have recommended that a government ban on the importation of cattle be maintained until further notice in order to encourage Jordanian breeders and local dairy production.

An announcement on the decision was made following a meeting of specialists and officials from the two ministries. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Abdullah Al Hawamdeh and Dr. Salem Al Lawzi, the under secretaries of the Ministries of Supply and Agriculture.

The announcement said that

Aqaba police department cracks down on taxi, tourist offices

AQABA (J.T.) — The Aqaba police department has taken strict measures against 11 owners of tourist offices in Aqaba for exploiting Arab and foreign visitors by charging commission in cooperation with owners of service taxi offices.

Director of the Aqaba police department Colonel Ghaleb Al Zuhbi said that the situation came to light when Arab nationals started returning to neighbouring Arab countries and travelling to Egypt through the Nuweiba sea link. He added that the department received information that taxis operating on service

Syria may send more men to Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

A truce aimed at ending the "camps war" was agreed in Damascus and announced on June 14 after some 160 people were killed in and around Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh.

Akram Shehaila, a senior official of the predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), told Reuters he hoped the Syrian presence would succeed in curbing street fighting.

There was no official reaction to the Syrian soldiers' presence from the mostly Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia or President Gemayel's Falange Party.

But local newspapers said Mr. Gemayel had told army officers two days ago that ties with Syria should be maintained.

Apparently reacting to the Syrian security deployment, the Lebanese pound's plunge in international value plunged on Saturday when it closed at 42.00/42.90 to the dollar, slightly up from Friday's close of 42.50/43.19 to the U.S. currency.

The Syrian troop arrival coincided with the end of a general strike by millions of people protesting against 11 years of war and a worsening economic crisis.



Copy of what is believed to be the oldest passport issued in Arabic. The original is made of papyrus and is in the British Museum (J.T. file photo)

Qudah receives copy of papyrus passport issued in 750 AD

AMMAN (J.T.) — The passport department has received a copy of what is believed to be the oldest passport issued in Arabic and authorities say that it was made around the year 750 AD.

The department's director, Mr. Muhammad Al Qudah, told Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper that the passport, which contains particulars similar to those contained in modern passports, was issued by Abdul Malek Ibn Yazid, the governor of Egypt at that time, to one of his Coptic

80 companies to exhibit products at Damascus fair

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Trade Centres Corporation (JTCC) has completed preparations for participating in the 15th Damascus International Fair, which is due to open on July 15.

At least 80 Jordanian firms will take part in the three-week annual fair and will exhibit samples of Jordanian industrial products in implementation of an agreement reached during a meeting held by the Higher Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee towards the end of last March.

The JTCC said it has distributed forms to local businesses wishing to participate in the fair and has started collecting samples of their products to be displayed by the Jordanian pavilion. These local firms are expected to sell up to JD 3 million worth of national products during the fair, the announcement said.

The corporation earlier issued regulations informing all local firms that all contracts drawn up with Syrian importers should be settled in Jordanian Dinars to be paid through the Central Bank of Jordan.

Khayyat opens summer camp for 150 students

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Aqaba and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat Saturday opened the ninth summer camp in the forests of Yajouz for Koran students.

In a speech delivered on the occasion, Dr. Khayyat praised the efforts of the central committee for the care of mosques and its contributions towards strengthening the beliefs of

faithful youth to counter anti-Islamic currents. He also commended its efforts to inform the youth of their duties towards Islamic holy places, emphasising that true adherence to Islam is the only path available to liberate Jerusalem and Al Aqsa Mosque.

Earlier, Sheikh Abdul Rahman Mahmoud of the committee said in a speech that his committee's interest in the welfare of the coming generations is manifested

by the number of Koranic study centres which are open throughout the Kingdom.

The opening was attended by the committee's secretary general, the Jubeiha municipal council president and a number of local inhabitants. The camp, which will continue for 20 days, is being attended by 150 students and involves religious as well as sports activities.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet okays trade accord with Greece

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has approved an agreement for cooperation between Jordan and Greece in economic and trade fields. The agreement was signed during the meetings of the Jordanian-Greek joint committee held recently in Greece. The cabinet has also referred a draft loan agreement between Jordan and the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic and Social Development to the Parliament. The \$11 million loan will be used to finance the Zarqa River Basin Project.

Jordan, Egypt to review meat company

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has formed a delegation to hold talks with Egypt on setting up an Egyptian-Jordanian joint company for the production of lean meat. The delegation is to be led by Mr. Abdul Ghani Al Naher, advisor to the minister of agriculture on animal husbandry. A Ministry of Agriculture spokesman said that the delegation will go to Cairo on Sunday to conduct talks with an Egyptian team.

CIDA delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) arrived here Saturday on a two-week visit to Jordan for talks with officials at the Ministry of Planning and other concerned government institutions. The talks will deal with the possibility of the agency contributing towards financing a number of development projects in the agricultural, educational and energy sectors. The delegation will also visit a number of development projects in the country.

Turkish Red Crescent team due July 14

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the Turkish Red Crescent Society is due here on July 14 at the head of an official delegation on a visit to Jordan at the invitation of Red Crescent Society President Ahmad Abu Qoura. The Turkish delegation will hold talks with Dr. Abu Qoura and officials at the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) on developing ties between the Jordanian and Turkish societies.

Show displays Indonesian textiles

AMMAN (J.T.) — A visiting Indonesian trade delegation, currently visiting Jordan, Saturday organised a fashion show to display Indonesian textiles and clothes to promote trade cooperation between the Kingdom and Indonesia. The show, which was under the patronage of Indonesian Ambassador to Jordan Zaim Al Yasuli, included a presentation of Indonesian folkloric dances. The show was attended by senior Jordanian officials and a large number of the foreign diplomatic corps.

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King's wisdom prevails

JORDAN and the Jordanian people must have taken heart from His Majesty the King's request to the government yesterday to introduce measures aimed at developing higher education in Jordan and to plug loopholes in our education system for the sake of safeguarding our educational institutions and maintaining our confidence in the future.

In the wake of the sad incident at Yarmouk University in May our people found solace not only in the great concern shown by His Majesty and the government in the unfortunate unrest at Yarmouk but also in the series of measures which have been taken to put the whole episode behind us and to continue on the road of building and developing our country.

The King's letter to the prime minister yesterday was but the latest of these measures which we are both hopeful and confident will lead to strengthening the fabric of our society and institutions.

There is of course a way to go before we can boast of an ideal system of education in Jordan, where there will be no problems and no troubles. But as His Majesty pointed out yesterday, the Yarmouk incident, despite all the pain it has caused us, is no more than a passing incident in our long and fruitful march towards national development and prosperity.

With will and determination, we shall overcome all the problems that crop up from time to time and which are natural in any society.

It is also true, however, that we have a wealth of experience to draw on, whether it is derived from the morals and values that characterise Jordanian society or from our concerted efforts to strengthen our social fabric and speed up our development process.

By ordering the reopening of Yarmouk University doors for students to take their examinations and to release all detained students, shortly after the May incident, His Majesty showed great far-sightedness and statesmanship which Jordanians admired and for which all were grateful. The committee of inquiry into the unrest was set up and it has reported on its findings; and this also was a very positive and encouraging step towards putting the sad incident behind us. Now, by requesting to plug all loopholes found in our higher education system and to start afresh, the King has given us yet another example to follow in building unity and strength of purpose in achieving our national aspirations.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Crossing the \$10 barrier

THE deterioration of oil prices is still continuing and the downfall trend is seen to be taking the prices to less than \$10 a barrel, according to oil specialists and observers. This pitiable situation for the oil producing countries has come about due to a failure on the part of OPEC oil ministers on Monday to reach agreement on prices and production quotas. The failure could have been precipitated by foreign elements and other reasons, but it should be emphasised that the downfall trend is a bitter fruit of OPEC's failure to adopt a clever and wise policy to control the world oil market, and in its dealings with oil producing nations which are not members of the OPEC organisation. However, it should be noted that forces hostile to OPEC have been active all the time and have contributed towards a disagreement among the OPEC countries with the purpose of weakening the organisation and causing divisions within its ranks prior to imposing domination on them. OPEC states should wake up, and realise the serious challenge they are facing. They should rise above selfish interests and unify their ranks to avert the common dangers. Unless all OPEC members take part in fending off the danger now they are in for greater and more serious challenges in the near future.

Al Dstour: The Kuwaiti experience

IT is indeed regrettable to see the democratic experiment in Kuwait facing a setback, a development that occurred in that Arab country for the second time in a decade. It is pointless to start pointing fingers towards those responsible for this setback directly or indirectly, and one cannot at this stage volunteer to give advice to any party or shift blame on any one. But it is indeed a moment for reflection as this new development offers a case study which one should take lessons from, so as to avert future setbacks. Like democratic experiments in other Arab countries the Kuwaiti experiment in democratic rule is still young compared with those of other nations, and being young it requires tender care which increases the responsibility of the country's rulers and the people alike. The set back in Kuwait and the disruption of parliamentary life and the provisions of the constitution could have harmful consequences on the countries in the Gulf region where Kuwait has served as a model. For Kuwait it is for any other country, parliamentary life and democracy serve as the most opportune climate for development, and the achievement of great progress and prosperity. We hope that the disruption of this democratic life will be only temporary after which the Kuwaitis will return to normal parliamentary rule, overcoming all obstacles impeding their country's progress.

Sawt Al Shaab: Lebanese strife for peace

THE Lebanese people have tasted peace and security over the past few days, a rare occasion throughout the 11-year-old civil war. The guns fell silent and the street barricades have been removed, offering a new opportunity for a resumption of a dialogue among the warring factions. The lull in the fighting, brought about by the presence of army troops in the streets, presents another chance for the wise men of Lebanon to undertake the task of establishing a lasting peace. They should seize this opportunity and also make use of the current peaceful atmosphere now prevailing in the Arab World in order to bring peace to Lebanon and stop the bloodshed. There is no doubt that the Lebanese people want to re-establish stability and security in their country and their recent general strike in protest against the deteriorating situation in the country clearly reflects their genuine orientation towards peace. Even those factions that had been in the habit of collaborating with the enemy and sold themselves to the devil, stopped fighting and raised the slogan of peace. This is a clear indication that the Lebanese want to live in peace, and since they realise that they hold the keys to peace they should not hesitate in using it to achieve their goal.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Moneychangers acted as unauthorised banks

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

THE moneychanger debacle is making news everywhere. The death of prominent moneychanger Saliba Rizk made the cover of the June issue of M.E. Money magazine issued in London.

The absence of sufficient information from official sources about the problem made it the talk of the town and set the stage for rumours, which naturally tend to blow scandals out of proportion.

To begin with, the problem is not a moneychanging crisis. The moneychangers who practise their profession properly and legally have no problem whatsoever. It is almost impossible for them to lose money. They buy and sell foreign exchange on the spot and make their profits from a very small margin. When, and if, they make big money, it is because of the huge and fast turnover.

The problem is that a handful of so-called moneychangers were acting as defacto, unauthorised

banks or financial institutions. They took deposits, speculated in the international markets, and entertained risks beyond the scope of their moneychanging profession, as defined and regulated by Jordanian law.

For reasons which are not clear the law governing moneychanging activities in Jordan was changed in 1976. The new law unnecessarily encouraged moneychangers to take the form of shareholding companies with limited responsibilities. Some moneychangers were only too happy to oblige. They formed companies with their wives or brothers or sons, paid up a small amount of capital, JD 50 to 100 thousand — hardly enough to buy furniture, computers, and telecommunication devices — and started to deal in millions without any personal responsibilities, just as if they were employees in their own companies.

On the other hand, the law officially permitted the moneychangers to deal in gold, bonds, shares, and other financial paper, and allowed them to make transfers in foreign exchange and maintain accounts in foreign banks abroad. They were only forbidden from opening letters of credits.

Moneychangers found themselves able to speculate in the domestic and international markets, on behalf of their customers or their own account.

For ten years we have been surprised that moneychangers continued to be given a more free hand than the authorised banks. A bank is not allowed to transfer over JD 5000 in foreign exchange without an exchange permit issued in advance by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), only after the CBJ is convinced that the transfer is for a good reason. Moneychangers

were able to transfer any amount, to anywhere, with no questions asked, and no need for a preceding or subsequent approval. The law also stipulates that moneychangers cannot effect transfers except in accordance with an exchange permit, but they ignored this condition, with the implied consent of the Central Bank.

The situation was such that banks themselves applied to the Central Bank for a moneychanging licence in order to enjoy the same unlimited freedom as the moneychangers! The Central Bank granted such licences and banks opened separate counters for moneychanging, soon referring their customers to these counters to implement transfers that could not be done legally through the banking system!

The moneychangers were acting as full-fledged banks but

without complying with prudent banking ratios and safeguards. The default of some moneychangers was only a matter of time. There was no question on whether or not some moneychangers would eventually default; the question was when.

In fact, moneychanging companies and the financial community were given an early warning of the impending problem when Al Nisr exchange company defaulted over a year ago. The ex-governor of the Central Bank could have faced up to the problem, but he conveniently chose to defer measures. This position resulted in the acceleration of the inevitable defaults and their impact.

So far the default of three or four moneychangers has not affected the national economy at large. It hurt some innocent people, and others who are not so

innocent, who dealt with moneychangers instead of the official banking system.

Financial scandals are not all bad, and even a common feature of dynamic economies, and provide the opportunity to pinpoint irregularities in the financial system, close the gaps and loopholes, and build a stronger, more stable economic system.

Government authorities should take advantage of this opportunity created by the moneychanger crisis to amend the moneychanging law, give banks at least the same flexibility, enforce the law strictly, and leave the moneychangers to change currencies and provide their vital services to the citizens, expatriates and tourists.

The problem has already been contained, the question now is how to improve and strengthen our financial system.

Legal experts upset with U.S. reaction to World Court ruling

By Carol Giacomo
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Many U.S. legal scholars are dismayed with President Reagan's dismissal of the World Court ruling on Nicaragua, fearing it could undermine the international legal system.

Experts around the country told Reuters in telephone interviews they respected last week's finding that Washington broke international law by aiding anti-government "contra" guerrillas in Nicaragua. They called it a credible judgement by distinguished jurists.

"I am persuaded that the majority found correctly," said Professor Burns Weston of the University of Iowa, chairman of the independent Commission on Respect for International Law. "What you have is the United States assisting a rebel force against a co-equal sovereign state, namely Nicaragua, which has a freely elected government," he said.

"You may not like the government but that's not the point, according to most treaties, that you change things." Since Reagan took office in 1981, Washington has been arming, training and otherwise aiding the contras seeking to topple Managua's leftist, Sandinista government.

The court, officially known as

the International Court of Justice, ordered in a 12 to 3 decision that the administration stop arming and training the insurgents and pay Nicaragua for damages caused by military attacks, some of which it said the United States had carried out itself.

The verdict, rendered on a complaint by Nicaragua, was widely expected and followed 26 months of litigation.

Only days before, the U.S. House of Representatives, in a major victory for Reagan, approved \$100 million in mostly-military aid for the contras.

The administration announced in 1985 it would ignore the World Court, claiming it had no jurisdiction in cases concerning armed conflicts.

The State Department said last Friday's opinion demonstrated that the court was not equipped to deal with a case involving complex facts and intelligence information. Spokesman Charles Redman said facts, not issues of international law, were in dispute. He said the court based its opinion on inaccurate facts presented by Nicaragua.

But professor Ved Nanda, director of international legal studies at the University of Denver, challenged that.

Although the United States withdrew from the litigation, the

administration presented its case fully through the international media, he told Reuters.

In its decision, the court rejected the U.S. claim that it acted in "collective self-defence" of El Salvador, Costa Rica and Honduras because Nicaragua was supporting insurgencies in these countries.

Tom Farer, an international law expert who is also president of the University of New Mexico, said he believed there was little evidence in recent years of major Sandinista support for rebel movements. "But even if it were significant, we could respond by military action and giving assistance to rebel groups only if we had exhausted non-military alternatives — the exhaustion of remedies doctrine in international law," he said.

"So until we've had negotiations with Nicaragua... we obviously will not have exhausted non-military remedies."

The legal experts unanimously endorsed the quality of the World Court jurists from France, Italy, Brazil, Japan, India, Poland, Argentina, Nigeria, Senegal, Algeria, China, Norway, Britain and the United States.

"The judges of the court include some of the most distinguished international jurists in the world," said professor Richard Bilder of the University of Wisconsin law school.

An accord that paid

The following article by Murad Al-Ismari appeared recently in the Israeli newspaper, the Jerusalem Post, under the same headline.

EGYPT didn't make any concessions when it signed a peace treaty with Israel, and in fact the treaty permits Egypt to maintain a Sinai military presence more than double the size of its pre-1967 force, says former Egyptian prime minister, Kamel Hassan Ali.

Ali, who headed the Egyptian peace negotiating team, defended the March 26, 1979 peace treaty in a recent interview with the Egyptian weekly, *Al-Mussawwar*.

The interview followed the publication of Ali's book, *Belligerents and Negotiators*, the first Egyptian work of its kind on the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

"I am absolutely glad and proud to have taken part in these negotiations, and if the clock were turned back I would take the same attitude," said Ali in the magazine interview.

Ali said the official treaty documents and correspondence make it clear that Egypt lost nothing in the peace process.

For example, Sinai troop deployments are not seriously restricted by the treaty terms, Ali asserted.

The treaty permits Egypt to deploy in the Sinai 22,000 troops, 250 armoured cars, 216 pieces of artillery, 118 anti-aircraft guns with ranges over 37 miles, and 216 tanks, Ali noted. That's enough to supply an independent mechanised division, he said.

"I can assure you that the size of the Egyptian troop force and equipment in Sinai never reached half this before the treaty," Ali remarked. "As a military man, I can say that the treaty does not harm Egypt's sovereignty over Sinai."

The former prime minister also argued that Egypt benefits from the peace treaty much more than the public realises.

"Perhaps we lost some things in return, such as the cooperation of the Arab states," Ali said. "But I can ask here, since when were the Arab states in agreement for one day?"

Through the peace accord, Egypt liberated 20 per cent of its territory, Ali said, and restored \$1

billion in annual income from the reopening of the Suez Canal.

Ali said that Egypt also recouped billions more in annual revenue from the Sinai oil fields (although oil revenues have declined with the drop in oil prices).

In addition, Egypt reaped benefits in terms of foreign aid and investments, he said.

"We now are receiving about \$3 billion annually in assistance from the United States, West Germany, France and Japan," Ali noted.

Under the current five year plan, foreign capital investments have totalled about 35 billion Egyptian pounds, he added.

In 1978, Arab states offered to pay Egypt just \$5 billion if it didn't sign the treaty. Ali said, adding that he even "doubted whether they would have paid such a sum."

Ali said that he would like to see other Arab states enter into direct talks with Israel. He noted that in addition to the Egyptian-Israeli accords, Syria already had concluded two disengagement agreements with Israel.

"Therefore, I believe that negotiations are the closest way to reach an agreement, and (direct) negotiations are also better than negotiating through mediators."

But Ali also blamed the Israeli Likud government for trying to make the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty a framework for bilateral action that would "discourage other parties from negotiating with (Israel) on the basis that the West Bank is an Israeli heritage."

Ali also condemned Israel's war in Lebanon and its attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor. But he added, "We have to realise that Israel always raises the question of Israeli security and the threats endangering her safety from upper Galilee, and the security theory of Israel was the reason behind the air attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor."

As for the Palestinian question, Ali said that Egypt didn't link the Palestinians to the Camp David accords, but rather that the Palestinians involved themselves in the agreements. He added that the retreat of the PLO leadership from its agreement with Jordan on a joint negotiating strategy could be considered as a big blow to the peace initiatives in the region.

King requests reform of higher education

(Continued from page 1)

regrettable events at Yarmouk University on May 13 and 14 resulting in the death of three students and the disruption of the summer courses.

These developments and their consequences have caused so much harm to the students and their parents who depended on the university to impart education and training to their children in various specialisations, and to help bring them up socially, culturally and psychologically in a manner that would help them shoulder their national responsibilities in the future.

The events and the aims and objectives of the malicious group and their plans were, thank God, no more than a spot of dirt in our clear and tranquil life, largely due to the awareness of the students and their keenness on adhering to their objectives which they aimed to achieve by enrolling at this university, and also thanks to the awareness of our security system and our people's confidence in our sound march and their support for it.

Yet, we were deeply pained like all citizens and parents about what happened. I was pained for the death of the three young students who fell victim to the plots of the stray group, and I hope God will grant their bereaved parents solace and strength to bear the pain to which they were subjected. I was also pained because the events took place at the campus of a new university where youths ought to be able to grow in sound and healthy atmosphere and not fall victim to a group of deviants.

I was pained even more upon reading a report by a ministerial committee charged with investigating the Yarmouk events. This report revealed that it has become necessary for redressing all matters related to higher education and its institutions and for developing education in a manner that best serves our goals and those of our children.

Since the beginning, in 1962, when I entrusted the prime minister to form a royal commission on education in



Jordan I stressed that the government should make it its duty to create the chance for every citizen in the country to acquire education. Ever since I assumed responsibility I have made it my duty to help create citizens who would form the real wealth of this country — citizens dedicated, productive and open minded for development and acquisition of knowledge and proud of their nation and their culture and heritage. Over the years, God Almighty has enabled us through cooperation and serious efforts on the part of all people and through open-mindedness and awareness and moderation to see the fruit of our endeavour — the citizens that we aspired to find in our country. Jordan has now become a model example for others looking forward to achieve social and economic development.

Had it not been for stability, awareness and constructive dialogue, we could not have built our country and achieved such progress in economy and education.

I cannot really say if it was a sheer coincidence or not, that the international press over the past two months preceding the Yarmouk events had been pointing to Jordan's stability and trying to interpret this firm steadiness and this stability in a turbulent region, beset with conflicts and plagued by the elements of disintegration and confrontation.

I do not really know whether to reply to questions in this respect but we can say that our secret is simple, and lies in the fact that we are homogenous people who

choose to stand together in agreement and to open dialogue in disagreement. The secret in our people lies in its support for its leadership and its institutions and its serious keenness to achieve its aspirations. In this manner, stability is strengthened and the country is built and the people enjoy the good fruits of progress.

This attitude had always directed our policy in all fields — it is a concept that had proved to be fruitful because it acquired unanimous support from the people and has been guiding their

steps in public and private organisations. This policy and this concept have brought about self-contentment for all, and brought out people's hidden potential and strengthened their tendency towards diligent work for achieving what is best. This in turn has caused all parents to be obsessed with the idea of enabling their children to acquire all skills and training. The state, for its part, responded favourably to these wishes and made it a focal point in its policy to build up a qualified and responsible manpower in Jordan.

The state has set up training institutes, community colleges and three universities. Lately it decided to establish a university of science and technology in Irbid and to set up a civilian wing at Mu'ta University in Karak. The state has spent a great deal of funds for achieving that goal.

Apart from the government funds for establishing these institutions the public has been contributing through taxes and through financing their children's education.

Our educational institutions belong to the people who pin their hopes on them and regard them as the means for attaining aspirations. These institutions house the country's children and help build up the future generations.

They represent the edifice which we have all built with our sweat and our funds, and so we want to protect them with our souls.

We would be ill-behaving if we allowed anyone to harm these

institutions or cause damage to them or cause diversion to their sound courses or mar their reputation.

Whoever tries to hamper with our educational institutions is trying to cause harm to the people because in so doing, he tries to tamper with the destiny of the nation and with its wealth and its aspirations.

We thank God for being affiliated to a people that realises the sense of responsibility and therefore this people rally forward to protect the country's achievements and its wealth and potentials. If those stray groups had believed they would be able to halt our march, I hope they would by now realise their grave blunder and revert to the sound course of our people, and work constructively and with all efforts for building up the nation and serving its future generations.

In this respect, I can only say that I see in the Yarmouk University events an alarm bell that should open our eyes. We should exert additional efforts to care for our higher educational institutions and to develop them and plug loopholes that could harm their systems. All gaps, whatever their size and origin, whether they were the result of negligence or oversight, or due to attempts by some stray groups to deviate others, or whether they came from responsible people or otherwise, should be closed.

The government's responsibility lies in taking immediate steps to identify these loopholes and close them. The government should urgently deal with all matters pertaining to higher education in terms of legislation, organisation and administration.

I hope government measures will be taken as soon as possible so that we can safeguard our universities and their reputation and maintain our children's confidence in the future.

I hope you will be successful in your endeavour and I hope God will protect our people and our nation from all blunders and deviation and will protect our march from all plots and evil-doers.

"I DIDN'T THINK I'D GET STOOD UP BY A COUNTRY THAT PROCLAIMS ITSELF 'A NATION OF LAWS'!"



Did the Bible come from Arabia?

By Josephine Zamanli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Historical treatises generally record and interpret the course of time. At worst they might apologise for an era or regime, but rarely does an historian glimpse a totally unknown world, forgotten to the annals of time.

The 1985 release of Professor Kamal Salibi's book, "The Bible Came from Arabia," is one of those infrequent works showing a completely new aspect of antiquity. The lucid, brilliantly documented book which convincingly argues that the site of the old testament to be West Arabia and not Palestine, caused a sensation on the London book scene and polarised academic circles. Der Spiegel ran three articles discussing the book's theory and the Times of London reviewed it under the headline, "Is Israel in the wrong place?"

Rumours about the work and its author circulate wildly in the Middle East. Did the Saudis really threaten to execute Salibi? Of course not, what nonsense? He replies quite taken aback by the question. "They have made no public statements on the book at all," he adds in a softly clipped English accent. "Are copies of the book being bought off the London book market en masse by the Saudis and Israelis?" He laughs. "I wish they would!"

The Lebanese born Salibi, an expert in Middle Eastern history and ancient Semitic languages, is Professor of History and chairman of the Department of History and Archaeology at the American University of Beirut. In appearance, he is quite typical of an history professor of fit youngish middle years — neatly clipped, greying hair, trimmed moustache, unobtrusive shirts, precisely creased trousers and dust free shoes.

Quiet discussion of his book reveals no dry historian or academic oracle piecing together the incomplete parts of antiquity but a man with a vivid and all encompassing knowledge of the complex and often bloody intricacies played out by the Semite and Near Eastern peoples through eons. Yet he remains very much a man of the present too, keenly interested in politics and an excellent raconteur, although in a detached academic way he watches, quietly observing the irrational world with a kind of whimsical amusement.

"The Bible Came from Arabia," changed little for him. He receives a lot of mail, however, most of it positive, from both scholars and the public. "The joy of discovery" and "the euphoria of realisation," clearly remain his fondest

memories of the whole endeavour. "I would wake at two or three in the morning, rush to my books and work through the day," he reminisces.

Delving into a 1977 Gazetteer of Saudi Arabia, Professor Salibi found himself looking at the old testament, most of the place names I could recall from the Hebrew Bible cover the West Arabian area. Bordered the Red Sea and North of Yemen, the six hundred kilometre long and two hundred kilometre wide strip is known today as Asir.

Although a backwater now, in the world of antiquity, the prosperous region, situated strategically on one of the great caravan routes, saw the riches of the ancient world: silks, myrrh, frankincense, spices and gold and in the rugged mountains the first monotheistic religion evolved from the harsh pantheon of Semitic gods.

The region flourished until the Persian conquest to the north lessened the importance of the Yemeni Hadramawt caravan route and the Hebrews, like the Philistines, Canaanites and other Semitic tribes before them, sought new territories to the north. They renamed a number of sites in their new homeland after those of the old world. Professor Salibi estimates around thirty. But the hundreds of other place names of the Bible never found by archaeologists remain unexplored in West Arabia, he says.

The destruction of Judea in 586 B.C. by the Babylonian ruler Nabuchadnezzar ended the Hebrew hegemony of West Arabia for ever, although Jews lived on in the region until this century. When finally released from the hundred years of captivity the Hebrews returned to Asir finding only an unimportant backwater. Many re-established themselves in non-Israelite communities to the north in Palestine, Syria and Iraq.

But why was West Arabia so totally dismissed from Jewish history? Professor Salibi illuminates several reasons. The huge population and linguistic reshuffle resulting from the Persian conquest, dismissed Canaanite, the language of the old testament and the Hebrew community, says Dr. Salibi, "lost its identity and passed into oblivion." The Hasmonaean dynasty of Palestine, he hypothesises, may well have suppressed the past in order to lead legitimacy to its own newer regime, against the older Hymyaric Kingdom of Yemen.

Dr. Salibi's argument is ably illustrated by a trill of biblical place names littering the Asir region: Al Sharin or Arwa Salam-Jernsalem, Al

Adharah-Aduru, Al Burqan-Burquna, Umm Lahm-Bethlehem. The list is enormous and continues throughout the book. West Arabia biblical place names antedate the Arabisation of the area and can be found in other regions too. Magdala for example occurs as a town name not only in West Arabia but Palestine, Syria and Lebanon indicating the diverse migration patterns of its early native sons.

While Asir abounds with biblical place names, even the most ardent stretching of the imagination in the best (or worst) traditions of Bible toting North American and European archaeologists or dubious Jesuits, failed to produce much real evidence supporting the old testament site to be in Palestine.

"A great deal of it was pure speculation," comments Salibi. "After World War I archaeologists tried to establish the modern boundaries for the contemporary state of Israel using the directives of the old testament. Well, they found Beersheba but Dan eluded them. They finally settled on Tell Al Qadi on the grounds that both 'Dan' and 'Qadi' are 'judge' in Hebrew and Arabic respectively."

He gestures in despair at the lack of archaeological evidence. "A ring with the inscription *lym* (Jotham) found by Nelson Glueck near an ancient copper furnace in south Jordan does not necessarily indicate the site of Solomon's mine Ezion-Geber," says Dr. Salibi. "Having found the inscription *lym* there was no justification for his reading it as *lym*. Even if the word is read *lym* it could refer to a Jotham who is not king of Judah and thus not of Solomon's family but to a Jotham who is not even a Jew. It could also be a reference to a god called *ym* — the Egyptian god Atum."

Archaeology in Egypt, Dr. Salibi points out, failed to produce collaborative evidence supporting the old testament occupation of Palestine. The period of captivity in Egypt, and the exodus supposedly through Sinai are unrecorded. The possibility of Egyptian fortress colonies along the Red Sea, he stops for a few seconds speculating on the possibility. "Marna the Hebrew translation of tawi meaning two lands (Upper and Lower Egypt), he pauses as, "In West Arabia there is a Khatai Tawi — fortress Egypt. They imported gold myrrh, juniper, for ship-building from West Arabia. Fortified colonies are a definite possibility."

Dr. Salibi's evidence is two pronged — a rational view of biblical geography coupled with a comprehensive grasp of Semitic languages. The Semitic tongues of antiquity, like the branches of Latin, share a common grammar, phonetics, vocabulary syntax. Prior to 500 B.C. Canaanite remained the dominant Semitic dialect. However, the creation of the "far flung but united Persian empire which included Syria, Iraq, Arabia and at one time even part of Egypt, resulted in a tremendous population and linguistic reshuffle in the area and Aramaic came to supersede Canaanite after 500 B.C. Hebrew, named in the Bible as the "lip of Canaan," was a literary form of that language and along with Canaanite ceased to exist at the same period, Dr. Salibi says.

Pronunciation of a dead language is always dubious and the problems for biblical Hebrew were compounded, as Dr. Salibi points out, the language of the old testament like other ancient Semitic dialects was written only in consonants. In present-day Arabic which gained dominance over Aramaic at the time of the Islamic conquests, five signs of vocalisation — various dashes near letters indicate pronunciation. Such signs were non-existent at the time of Canaanite dominance and the writing of the Bible. So, Jewish scholars, "who interpreted and vocalised the Hebrew Bible (between the sixth and tenth centuries A.D.) did not know Hebrew as a spoken language and based their reconstruction of it on informed guess work," says Professor Salibi.

As a native speaker of a Semitic language — Arabic — and an expert on those of antiquity, he settles into his next argument comfortably. "A Semitic speaker instinctively recognises the phonological relationship between consonants which are interchangeable."

In his book he cites the example of *hsh*, the Hebrew for to settle which in Arabic becomes *hsh*. Semitic languages are based upon a root form, a kind of infinite from which other verbs, nouns and adjectives are derived. Each dialect exhibits another common feature metathesis — the transposition of consonants, the root *acb* can become *cab* or *bca*. He gives one of the many examples from Arabic — *zawj*, a pair in the Lebanese dialect becomes *jawz*.

Armed with the tools for understanding the mechanics of Semitic language, Dr. Salibi opens a new bible for the reader. Parts of it, which previously made little sense become quite clear after re-vocalisation and retranslation. With a dash of Lebanese charm when confronted with the inevitable, he launches into a

discussion of the criticisms of "The Bible Came from Arabia."

"Some say I had no right to discount the traditional vocalisation of the Hebrew Bible set down between the sixth and tenth centuries A.D. Well, the fact is that many scholars doubted its accuracy. I simply go all the way and discount it entirely. Frequently their vocalisations were correct," he says. "But they often muddled place names as they were unaware of the old testament site."

He quickly illustrates with a few passages from the Bible: "If we vocalise the raven fed Elia differently, it becomes the Arabs fed Elia. Much more logical." The highly emotive valley of the shadow of death more simply becomes the valley of darkness. And David's attack on the blind and lame was not a war against the disabled, but, with revocalisation of the passage, a confrontation against two other tribes.

Some criticise the book on the ground that Hebrew was not a dead language. "Quite false," says the professor. "I estimate that literary Hebrew ceased to exist around 500 B.C.; others say by 300 B.C. Any encyclopaedia will tell you the language died out around this time." The Hebrew "spoken in Israel today," is not a living emotive language for example, he adds, "you cannot swear in it and they say you cannot make love using it."

Some scholars not conversant with Semitic language criticised his use of metathesis. "Well clearly it exists in Semitic language as any Semitic speaker will tell you," says Dr. Salibi. He dismisses the question.

What of biblical Archaeology? "They have found little and misinterpreted a lot," he cites the example of the so-called Lachish Ostraca — a set of reports and complaints sent by the commander of a Jewish force. Originally translated to demonstrate the existence of biblical Lachish a rational vocalisation of ostraca IV shows the "garrison not waiting the



Dr. Kamal Salibi says yes in his new book, "The Bible Came from Arabia"

signals of Lachish but waiting for food cargoes." In the case of ostraca VI, "the reading of the name Jerusalem is nothing short of dishonest. On a fragment of the broken potsherd the letters *slm* can be discerned as a Hebrew word... yet it can mean spark, good health, peace, agreement, completeness or reward. It is also the Semitic word of greeting."

Jar handles excavated in Palestine with the inscription *mlk* followed by what archaeologists assumed were place names have been interpreted as to the king of Hebron etc. — a rough attempt at establishing biblical towns in Palestine. Dr. Salibi argues a more logical translation would be, the property of, followed by the owner's name. *mlk* denotes the property of in many Semitic dialects and *mlk* the king. He adds that it is unlikely kings has common pottery inscribed with their names and further more there are no records of petty kinglets scattered throughout Palestine.

When Egyptian style scarabs and symbols were excavated in Palestine, "biblical archaeologists insisted, that monotheism had become infected with Egyptian style cults," rather than the more obvious solution that the local religion was Egyptian oriented rather than monotheistic Judaism.

Professor Salibi believes his book stands or falls on linguistics. But what of those readers who know nothing of Semitic linguistics? Affronted he replies, "I am an academic and have my reputation to uphold, I would hardly write inaccuracies."

He does not contend there was no Jewish occupation of Palestine during the early period of the old testament but that the site of the old testament was West Arabia. "Jewish tribes were scattered throughout the Near East," he says.

Semitic history still holds its fascination for him and he is planning other books to illuminate the distant past. A past so reflected in today's world that many of us are still touched by it.

Famed ballet dancer finds farm life to her liking

By Carrie Fidor
The Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — Margot Fonteyn, the graceful grande dame of the British Ballet, has replaced her ballet slippers with cowboy boots. Along with her husband, she runs a spread in Panama and loves every minute of it.

"It's completely different from dancing but it doesn't seem to be quite a shock," said Fonteyn in a recent interview, still straight-backed and slender at age 67. "It's very nice to see the little calves scamper about in the evening, and to live that close to nature."

After a 45 year career with the British Royal Ballet, settling down in the country seemed a very natural thing to do. And without her husband Roberto Arias, a prominent Panamanian who was paralysed from the waist down by a would-be assassin's bullet in 1964, Fonteyn very rarely leaves their farm.

The Arias' actually have two farms, one on the Pacific coast where they live and another branch where there's more rain and more pasture for the cattle.

There are a few farm hands, of course, but that still leaves the retired ballerina with plenty of chores and administrative errands to run. Fonteyn doesn't get much of a chance to walk the beach that borders one end of the farm and has no programme of ballet exercises.

At the height of her career, in 1955, she married Arias, then Panama's ambassador to Great Britain — and kept on dancing. Her 12-year match-up with Rudolf Nureyev, the brilliant Russian dancer, didn't even start until Fonteyn was already nicknamed in London the "First lady of Panama."



Nadia Gamal

Oriental dancing : An expression of emotions

By a Jordan Times staff reporter

AMMAN — She moves with the affinity of an actress, the grace of a model and the flair of a ballerina. She's all the three besides being a world-renowned oriental dancer.

After more than 30 years in show business, Nadia Gamal still reserves a special place among the best artists in the Arab World having survived great entertainers such as Samia Gamal and Tahia Karim. People are generally shocked with disbelief when they are told of her age, being aware of her energetic performances and stamina. But maintaining that reputation is not her only preoccupation. Nadia Gamal runs two oriental dancing schools, one in Beirut and another in Washington. She is also co-publisher of Scoop, a Beirut-based fashion magazine.

"I am not a belly dancer," was the first thing Nadia Gamal said in response to a question by the Jordan Times. "I am an oriental dancer," she said. "That's much more than just a belly dancer."

In her view, oriental dance is not only one of the oldest forms of dancing ever known, but also an inherently important outlet for human emotions, happiness and sadness. "It is the process of using all of your body to express feelings," she said.

She confessed that it has been an uphill struggle to transform the people's perception of oriental dancing from a mere sexual provocation for commercial purposes into an understanding of its artistic value.

"I have succeeded in crystallising oriental dance into something more than just belly dancing in the eyes of the public," Nadia Gamal said proudly.

She agreed that here 11 years of ballet dancing at the beginning of her career gave her an edge over other dancers. Nadia Gamal also studied modern and folk dance for three years. The artist's Austrian-Italian mother instilled in her the love for dancing and for music, the mother being a dancer-singer herself.

Nadia Gamal made a one-month contract with the regency Palace Hotel for performances at the hotel's rooftop nightclub. Her contract ends on July 6.

Assessing the Jordanian audience as opposed to other audiences, she said that "Jordanians are picky people." She explained that "they want to get the best there is, if not, why waste time?" She had fullhouse so far at the Regency Palace Hotel, with the exception of few nights when there was an important World Cup football match.

Nadia is accompanied by six members of her group including Setrak, her drummer who has been working with her for the last 30 years.

Settlers on Roman frontier had non-imperial existence

By Donald J. Frederick
National Geographic

WASHINGTON — Life on the frontier in Roman times had a lot in common with America's pioneer days.

In many parts of the far-flung empire, settlers scratched for a living, worried about marauding tribes, and were wary of smoke signals.

Legionaries manning small watchtowers used fires at night and smoke signals during the day to warn of impending danger and call for help.

Attacks weren't usually directed against the soldiers, according to Dr. S. Thomas Parker, professor of history at North Carolina State University. He has been studying the remains of Roman military outposts in Jordan.

"Like the Indians, Arabs on the warpath usually didn't have the means to storm fortified positions. Instead, they picked off caravans

hauling luxury goods or assaulted unfortified farms or villages," says Parker.

Survival difficult

Civilians had a hard time in those days, even when they weren't trying to fend off armed attackers. Analysing outlying settlements from Roman times in Tunisia, Dr. Robert B. Hitchner, professor of history at the University of Virginia, has concluded that the average farmer survived at a subsistence level "in the classical Third World sense. You look at a farmer in the Sudan today, and you have an idea of what went on then," he says.

Moreover, most people didn't even own their own land. They were tenant farmers living in one-room houses with earthen walls and thatched roofs.

In return for grazing privileges, nomadic herdsmen served as migrant workers, picking olives

and grapes during harvests.

To keep valuable harvests and commodities flowing from the Levant, the Romans embarked on an extensive military buildup in the fourth century. They erected a string of forts and watchtowers that extended 234 miles through Jordan from the Syrian border in the north to Agaba and the Red Sea in the south.

In effect, this protected the most lucrative part of the region from the perils of nomadic tribes that roamed the eastern deserts. The defenses also helped guard the land bridge between Egypt and Syria, two of Rome's most important provinces in the East.

The anchor of this defensive line — Limes Arabicus — was a zone of forts not far from the present-day town of Kerak. By far the most formidable of these was the fortress of Lejjun, home of the Fourth Mars Legion. Covering 11 acres, it held a garrison of as many as 2,000 legionaries. They were

protected by walls 2.5 metres thick topped by 24 projecting towers from which missiles could be hurled.

'Bureaucrat designed fort'

"It was a classic case of overkill," says Parker, whose work, along with Hitchner's, has been partly funded by National Geographic Society. "They didn't need such massive fortifications to ward off nomadic tribes. Lejjun probably was designed by some bureaucrat in Rome who used the same general fort plan all over the empire."

Outside the fort, Parker and his team found a series of water mills, where the soldiers processed their own grain. "The imperial government provided the rations for only part of the year," he explains. "The soldiers were expected to come up with their own supplies the rest of the time." Barley, wheat, grapes, olives,

dates, and lentils were staples, as was the meat of goats and sheep.

Large numbers of camel and horse bones found at Beshir, another fort, indicated that the cavalry rode to the rescue even in the days of the Caesars.

"A series of manglers found in the lower rooms leads us to believe that there was a mounted cavalry detachment based at the fort," says Parker.

As in many parts of the empire, the soldiers manning Limes Arabicus were native to the area. Parker presumes that even the commanding officers of these forts had been locally recruited. "That didn't distract them from doing a good job," he says. "They were defending their own lands, homes, and families."

Many of the provincials were willing to fight Rome's battles because, contrary to popular belief, they generally were left alone as long as they paid their taxes.

"The Romans," says Hitchner, "weren't interested in imposing their culture. In Tunisia we're finding that whenever possible they adapted to local customs and even used agricultural methods traditional to the region."

Parker concurs: "It wasn't the imperial government that pressured people in the provinces to become citizens, but the individuals themselves who thought that by aping Roman ways they could obtain a passport to success."

In Jordan that passport began to expire in the fifth and sixth centuries when the elaborate Limes Arabicus defence network unraveled under pressures elsewhere in the empire. Troops were shifted, fortifications gradually abandoned.

The vacuum was filled by Muslim armies, which easily conquered the Levant in the seventh century and changed the course of history.

W. Europe boosts Eureka research plan, but success not certain

By Paul Mylrea
Reuters

LONDON — Eureka, Western Europe's drive to rival U.S. and Japanese domination of high-technology markets, got a new political boost by a decision to expand the number of both projects and member states, diplomats said.

But the success of the ambitious research drive, designed to harness Europe's undisputed scientific skills, still depends on companies transforming political backing into an ability to produce marketable goods, they said.

After the third Eureka conference here on June 30, British Industry Minister Paul Channon told journalists: The bandwagon is rolling, the momentum is increasing.

But Britain's Research Minister Geoffrey Pattie added: "We now want this to move from the political domain into the industrial domain."

Agreement by ministers from Eureka's 18 nations to increase

the number of Eureka projects from 10 to 72 and to admit Iceland as a full member showed Europe's determination to push the research drive forward, the diplomats said.

But as Sweden takes over from Britain as chairman of Eureka the question whether firms can overcome the technical barriers which hinder trade in Europe and set out to catch up with the U.S. and Japan remain unanswered, they added.

Eureka — which groups the 12 European Community (EC) states together with Sweden, Norway, Finland, Austria, Turkey, Switzerland and Iceland — was launched just over a year ago on the initiative of French President Francois Mitterrand.

Pattie said Eureka's youth made it premature to say whether it had been successful. But he added the June 30 conference here had seen the end of discussions on organisation and marked the real beginning of the research programme.

Pattie also echoed an appeal by

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for firms to help governments identify and reduce barriers between nations in Europe's vast market, potentially as large as the U.S. and Japan put together.

Diplomats said, however, the European Community (EC), whose members make up the majority of Eureka states, is well behind on plans to create a true single market by the deadline of 1992 set by the EC's executive commission.

National protests have continued to block agreement in key areas such as free circulation of goods and services, common patent rules and harmonisation of standards, and diplomats said Eureka is unlikely to produce a quick solution to the logjam.

Diplomats said another concern was the lack of new state money on offer in Eureka to help European firms catch up with the U.S. and Japan, in stark contrast to U.S. President Ronald Reagan's "Star Wars" initiative which offers \$26 billion in

spending on research for a space-based missile shield.

Apart from France, no state has offered extra money for Eureka, and French Foreign Minister Jean Bernard Raimond said on June 30 much of the one billion francs (\$141 million) pledged by Mitterrand for Eureka research this year would be taken from existing research budgets.

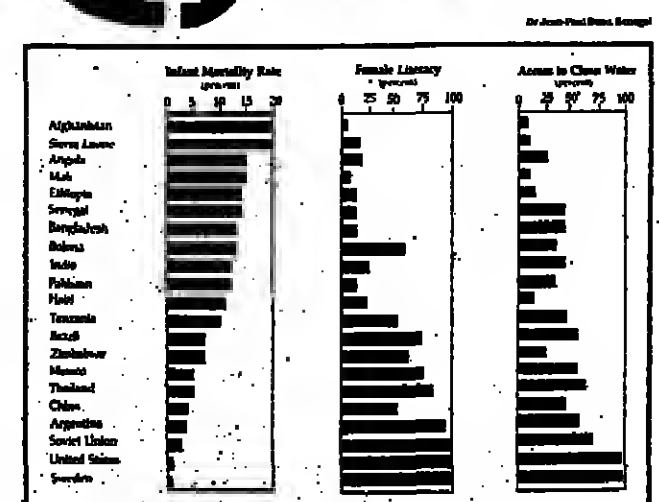
In contrast, Reagan has promised European firms as much as 10 per cent of "Star Wars" spending.

British ministers were keen to play down the rivalry between Star Wars and Eureka, proposed by Mitterrand as a civilian alternative to the U.S. Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI). Pattie said: "Eureka is not competing with Star Wars."

But diplomats said this merely reflected a difference of opinion between Mitterrand's opposition to the U.S. plan and London's backing for Star Wars, and failed to answer the question of how Europe can compete with such funding offers.

CITIZENS OF THE SECOND CLASS

6 In much of Africa and southern Asia... men eat first and women and children eat whatever is left



The lack of education for women has a direct effect on infant mortality, as does access to water — a three-hour walk for millions of women.

China devalues currency by record margin to combat ballooning deficit

PEKING (R) — China devalued the renminbi by a record 15.3 per cent against major foreign currencies Saturday in a move described by Western diplomats as a victory for common sense to combat a ballooning trade deficit.

A spokesman for the State Commission for Foreign Exchange Control (SCFEC) said the devaluation was in line with domestic price reform and because of movements in international currencies and China's balance of payments position.

Western bankers and diplomats praised the decision, saying it was sensible in the light of falling prices for China's main commodity exports, especially oil, and would help cut the trade deficit.

The devaluation was given in the rates of the renminbi against foreign currencies published every day by the SCFEC.

Saturday's rate quoted the buy/sell range of the renminbi at 3.69/3.71 to the U.S. dollar against 3.19/3.20 Friday, with similar changes for other major currencies.

"The main reason for this dramatic move, a record devaluation in a single day, is the serious position in China's foreign trade this year, mainly because of the plunge in oil prices," one Western diplomat said.

Oil is China's biggest foreign exchange earner, accounting for 20 per cent of total export earnings last year.

The diplomat said China had also been hit by falling prices for agricultural goods which make up a substantial part of its exports.

Analysts say there is no sign of a quick turnaround and the country is heading for a third year of deficit.

Latest figures issued by the customs department show a trade deficit of \$4.4 billion in the first four months of 1986, against \$3.9 billion in the same period last year.

put at \$7.61 billion by the foreign trade ministry, while customs figures showed it at \$14 billion. Both organisations regularly give different figures.

"China has done what a Western country would do in the same situation. It is a wise decision which will boost China's export earnings and as a result its ability to buy goods from abroad," one European diplomat said.

The decision was "a victory within the Chinese bureaucracy for the pragmatists against the troglodytes who regard a devaluation as a loss of national pride," he added.

The renminbi has been falling steadily over the last 21 months, dropping from 2.6 to the U.S. dollar in October 1984 to below three for the first time in October last year.

A U.S. banker said he was shocked by the extent of the fall and added: "The renminbi will continue to fall over the next two years, since it is still overvalued. Its black market price before the devaluation was about 50 per cent more than the official price."

The devaluation comes while China is playing an increasingly

important role in the world trading system after three decades of self-imposed isolation until 1979.

Its foreign trade more than doubled to more than \$59 billion last year from the 1979 level and is officially estimated to reach \$83 billion by 1990.

Foreign Trade Minister Zheng Tuobin said in an interview in May that exports were vital role in China's ambitions to become an industrialised nation and largely set the pace at which it opened to the world and modernise.

Export earnings enable China to buy the technology and machinery it badly needs to update antiquated factories and produce higher-quality goods. They are a central plank in a five-year economic masterplan passed by parliament in March.

Mr. Zheng said China still had a long way to go — "We must improve quality, design, packaging and delivery schedules and meet the changing needs of the international market. We must raise the profits and political status of exporting firms to encourage them to export more."

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarises trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, June 28, '86 and ending Wednesday, July 2, '86 (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Banking and financial institutions					
Petra Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	5945	13043	2.180	2.180	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	2895	5859	2.030	2.010	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	300	435	1.450	1.450	1.000
Housing Bank	6910	11044	1.600	1.600	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Bank of Jordan	475	13300	28.000	28.000	5.000
Arab Bank	337	6168	18.700	18.300	5.000
Jordan National Bank	1380	188981	141.750	134.000	10.000
Jordan Finance House	17235	434441	2.520	2.520	1.000
Islamic Investment House	11190	8933	0.810	0.790	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation	8932	6984	0.790	0.780	1.000
Finance and Credit Corporation	22121	17926	1.320	1.310	1.000
National Financial Investments	16620	5739	0.860	0.840	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	21500	25792	1.200	1.200	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	3506	2237	0.640	0.630	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	101593	101594	1.000	1.000	1.000
Industrial Development Bank	300	328	1.110	1.090	1.000
	630	863	1.370	1.370	1.000
Insurance					
Jordan French Insurance	23717	59838	2.550	2.540	1.000
REFCO Insurance	5845	2512	0.930	0.930	1.000
Jordan Insurance	20	1200	10.250	10.000	1.000
Arab Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arabian Seas Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	200	160	0.800	0.800	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	266	391	1.490	1.470	1.000
Petra Insurance	1700	545	0.400	0.320	1.000
Jordan Gulf Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Insurance	5000	7750	1.750	1.550	1.000
Services and industries					
Darco for Housing and Investment	5900	3275	0.570	0.530	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	2050	1025	0.530	0.500	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	475	2890	5.800	6.250	1.000
Dar Al Shaab Press,	—	—	—	—	1.000
Publishing and Distribution	50	25	0.570	0.500	1.000
Jordan Leading Corporation	311	205	0.670	0.660	1.000
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	1250	2275	1.820	1.820	1.000
Jordan Electric Power	9559	14437	1.510	1.520	1.000
National Shipping Line	1330	921	0.710	0.690	1.000
Jordan Dairy	7835	8864	1.140	1.130	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	1251	3740	2.990	2.970	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	16653	9229	0.570	0.560	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	1205	2635	2.170	2.200	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	7855	13856	1.750	1.770	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergents	100	415	4.200	4.150	1.000
Alladin Industries	1700	913	0.560	0.530	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	37605	32177	0.860	0.850	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	7862	30269	3.850	3.850	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	655	635	0.970	0.970	1.000
Chemical Industries	1450	1421	0.980	0.980	1.000
Jordan Industries and Matches (JIMCO)	2944	1531	0.540	0.520	1.000
Arab International Hotels	9700	3497	0.360	0.360	1.000
Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment	1497	2229	1.480	1.490	1.000
National Steel Industries	11124	13147	1.200	1.180	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
General Mining	200	344	1.700	1.720	1.000
Petra for Projects and Leasing	18722	3509	0.670	0.690	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	6127	41682	6.810	6.820	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	5250	1196	0.230	0.220	1.000
National Industries	950	687	0.790	0.700	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	3970	4344	1.120	1.070	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	300	162	0.540	0.540	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	2419	3090	1.280	1.260	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	322	846	2.620	2.630	1.000
Jordan Rockwool Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Irbid District Electricity	—	—	—	—	1.000
Al Himmah Minerals	50	40	0.950	0.800	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries	200	60	0.330	0.300	1.000
Woolen Industries	250	163	0.720	0.650	1.000
Arab Investments and Development	500	250	0.600	0.500	1.000
Grand total	427813	728117			

Arms sales to Third World drop to \$29.9b

WASHINGTON (USIA) — There was a dramatic drop in arms transfers to the Third World in 1985, according to a report released recently by the U.S. Library of Congress. The 1985 total value of all arms transfer agreements was \$29,940 million, down almost 13 per cent from \$34,330 million in 1984.

The report, "Trends in Conventional Arms Transfers to the Third World by Major Suppliers, 1978-1985," was compiled by Mr. Richard Grinnett of the Congressional Research Service, a division of the Library of Congress.

The overall 1985 arms transfer agreements total, in constant 1985 U.S. dollars, was the lowest annual figure during the eight-year period covered by the report. The highest year during the period was 1980, when the total topped \$53,700 million.

Both the United States and the Soviet Union showed a decrease in their totals from 1984 to 1985, while what the report calls the "major West European group" — France, Great Britain, Italy and West Germany — showed an increase.

The Soviet Union, despite a percentage share drop from 37.4 per cent in 1984 to 30.4 per cent, ranked first in 1985, with Third World arms transfer agreements totalling \$9,100 million; the United Kingdom was second with \$6,500 million, due primarily to a multi-thousand-million-dollar aircraft contract with Saudi Arabia which boosted its share from 1.6 per cent to 21.8 per cent; and the United States ranked third with \$5,300 million, following a 1984-1985 percentage drop from 20.6 to 17.8 per cent.

By geographic areas, the Near East and South Asia region was the largest recipient of arms transfers, accounting for more than 75 per cent in the 1982-85 period. The other regions received

the following percentages: East Asia/Pacific 11.3 per cent, Latin America just over 6.8 per cent and sub-Saharan Africa just under 6.8 per cent.

In the Near East/South Asia region, the 1982-85 percentage split was almost even among major suppliers — the major West European suppliers 27.3 per cent, the United States 26 per cent and the Soviet Union 25.7 per cent.

The report notes that arms transfer agreements to Latin America became "much more polarised" during that same four-year period. While during the 1978-81 period the United States and the Soviet Union, together, accounted for 28.5 per cent of arms agreements with that region, their share almost doubled in the 1982-85 period, to 54.3 per cent. The U.S. share increased from 3.5 to 17.6 per cent, while the Soviet share went from 25 to 36.7 per cent.

In the East Asia and Pacific region, the United States, which topped the suppliers list with 38.2 per cent in 1982-85, was followed by the Soviet Union (28.7 per cent) and the major West European suppliers (9.8 per cent).

The largest difference in the arms transfer agreement amounts between the United States and the Soviet Union during that period was in sub-Saharan Africa, where the Soviet share of the arms market has remained close to 50 per cent over the last eight years. In the 1982-85 period, the Soviets ranked first with 49.5 per cent of the total arms going to that region, the major West European suppliers were second with 24.2 per cent (Italy 7.9; France 6.6; United Kingdom 5.7; West Germany 4.0) and the United States was third with 5.7 per cent.

In the preceding four-year period, 1978-81, the percentage breakdown was: Soviet Union 48.7 per cent, major West European suppliers 26.8 per cent, the United States 3.7 per cent.

India offers technology, know-how to Libya

NEW DELHI (OPECNA) — India Friday offered to share its experience, know-how and technology with Libya in a move to further expand the existing cooperation between the two nonaligned nations.

At a meeting of the Indo-Libyan joint commission here, Indian Industry Minister Narain Dutt Tiwari said India was in a position to extend its expertise to Libya, especially in the field of power, telecommunications and automobiles.

According to an Inter Press Service (IPS) news agency report from the Indian capital, there are 15 Indian companies operating in the Jamahiriya with projects valued at roughly \$1.6 billion. Projects worth \$1.2 billion have already been completed.

Mr. Tiwari said an experts committee of the two countries had discussed the question of payments to Indian companies and home remittances by Indian workers, but the two sides had not yet reached an accord.

The Libyan side was

represented at the meeting by Industry Secretary Hassan Al Barghash, who assured India that all major problems, currently being faced by the Indian companies, particularly in the field of timely payments, were being tackled.

Mr. Al Barghash reiterated his country's commitment and willingness to make use of the expertise developed by Indian companies in engineering, construction and consultancy.

He said Libya wanted India to keep in view the current financial problems facing not only the Jamahiriya, but the entire developing world.

He said India had helped his country a great deal in its development and its participation in building up Libya's infrastructure was "highly valued".

Mr. Tiwari said Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited, one of the leading Indian Public sector companies, was willing to provide technology needed by Libya for its power development programme.

Pharmacia forms new empire

STOCKHOLM (R) — A big Swedish drugs firm, Pharmacia, said Friday it was taking over another pharmaceutical company, AB Leo, in a three billion crown (\$425 million) deal which will restructure the country's drug industry.

Pharmacia said it was buying an 85 per cent controlling stake in the much smaller Leo from carmaker Volvo.

The deal represents Volvo's second involvement this year in moves to reshape the prestigious Swedish drug industry. Volvo Chairman Pehr Gyllenhammar said Volvo's aim was to create an internationally competitive biotechnology group in Sweden.

Volvo's share in Pharmacia, Sweden's largest privately-owned drug company, will also increase — from 26.8 per cent to 31 per cent of voting rights.

Pharmacia President Erik Danielsson said the deal would particularly benefit cancer research projects. Leo is best known for developing an anti-smoking nicotine-based chewing gum.

THE Daily Crossword by CF Murray

ACROSS

- Author Unis
- Photo copy
- Pump feature
- time
- (never)
- Water sport
- Michaelangelo masterpiece
- Manuscript
- direction
- Severed
- product
- Eastern VIP
- Football
- Free ticket
- Leir
- Lower
- Be a mendicant
- Alumnus
- Chemical compound
- Slewing pot
- Pile — mode
- Goes tickety-
tick
- Fruit drink
- Start with force
- Remove the
root from
- Encaves
- Cassia's lang.
- Back at times
- Avail
- Confess
- Plant with
lobed fronds
- Exams
- Search of
- leaving
- Mother of
Romeo and
Juliet
- Space shuttle
coating
- Alot
- Like sea water
- July trip
- Palm starch

DOWN

- Whip
- the Kati
- Lulu
- Tablets
- Meager
- Perish veggie
- Just
- Reck
- Garden tool
- Actor's skill
- Hollow stem
- Suits to
- Kind of rubber
- Series city
- Mystery award
- Navigation device
- Occur
- IQ testing
- Sea
- Abduct
- Kingdom
- Purpos
- Wooden
gilt
- Leander's
slump
- State, star
- Alt
- Expert
- Fund-raising
- Fancy dance
- Reck to
weather
- Less light
- Adress Special
- Terra
- Decays
- Opera feature
parties
- Cosmo hominy
- Gratia
- Kazan
- Enclave
- Alliance
anagram

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

LAND REIDAR ACAD
ANITA AROSE RALE
WASHBURNESHAIDOF
DIT FORTHE SILENCE
REMISE ALLIE ATT
AMEN FMOKE GOO
RETTORPPERRAARD
BRE FOULE APEO
SVR ANTE MEREY
ROHAI AAROE JAW
PROHARDTOUTIN
HORE DOZER IDNE
SPED RIVERE NOLIN

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"The mailman is coming with a package. It's either the Sears catalog or the phone bill."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RAAPK
HANEN
HYRITT
SERJEY

THE MAN WHO MARRIES FOR MONEY WILL USUALLY HAVE TO DO THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: ICING BALMY GIBLET APIECE

Answer: He told them he was just what the doctor ordered — A BIG PILL.

Tutu asks to meet Botha; 20 injured in Pretoria blast

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Anti-apartheid church leader Desmond Tutu has asked for a meeting with President P.W. Botha to discuss South Africa's three-week-old state of emergency, a senior clergyman said Saturday.

Duncan Buchanan, the Dean of Johannesburg, said Mr. Botha's office was expected to reply to Tutu's request on Monday.

Buchanan spoke to Reuters as Tutu met Anglican clergymen to discuss a response to the emergency. The meeting at Johannesburg's cathedral was closed to reporters.

Tutu, a Nobel Peace Prize winner recently elected Archbishop of Cape Town, held 90 minutes of talks with Mr. Botha in Cape Town on June 13, a day after the emergency was declared. He came out sharply critical of the emergency but said the talks had been surprisingly friendly.

In the latest of a spate of apparent urban guerrilla bombings since the start of the emergency, 20 people were injured in an explosion in South Africa's capital Pretoria.

Thirteen bomb attacks in towns across the country have now claimed three lives and injured more than 100 people since the white-led government imposed emergency law three weeks ago.

Some 2,000 black workers went

on strike Friday in the first major protest over the emergency in South Africa's vital mining industry. De Beers Diamond Corporation said the strike crippled operations at four of its mines in Kimberley.

The strike began as the authoritative labour monitoring group reported that 1,500 black unionists were being detained after more individual and mass arrests.

The latest bomb blast came shortly before closing time outside a supermarket in a suburb of South Africa's administrative capital, Pretoria, Friday. The suburb, Silverton, is zoned for whites but blacks from a nearby township use its shops.

The government, which usually blames bombings on the black nationalist African National Congress (ANC), said 20 people of all races were wounded in the blast, five of them seriously.

The casualty toll in bombings since the emergency is less serious than that caused by a single ANC car bomb in central Pretoria in 1983, when 19 people died. But

the recent attacks are unprecedented in their frequency and countrywide scale.

Police Friday urged public vigilance against bombings, telling home-owners to search back-yards and spare rooms for arms caches and pedestrians to keep a lookout for suspicious objects left in street rubbish bins, where some recent bombs have been placed.

Pretoria, which said it imposed emergency rule to thwart black radicals' plans to create anarchy in South Africa, has so far refused to say how many people have been detained without trial since the clampdown.

But civil rights groups say the figure runs into several thousands and that black trade unionists, many of whom have taken an increasingly overt political stand in recent months, are a major target group for the first time in 10 years.

On Friday De Beers said the strike at its mines was directly related to the detention of officials of the powerful black National Union of Mineworkers. It urged their release, saying their detention "is making it virtually impossible for their unions to function and play their key role."

In London, Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda has threatened that his country will quit the Commonwealth if the 49-nation

group does not act towards imposing full economic sanctions against South Africa at a meeting next month.

"If nothing happens at the next Commonwealth summit in London, I will have an obligation to propose to my Central Committee in Zambia that we leave the Commonwealth," Mr. Kaunda said on a British television programme to be broadcast Sunday.

Mr. Kaunda is due to join British Prime Minister Thatcher and the leaders of five other Commonwealth countries at a meeting in London from Aug. 3 to 5 which will discuss the possibility of the sanctions issue.

"If no action is taken there will be an explosion in this part of the world which will envelop the entire region and end in hundreds and thousands of lives being destroyed," Mr. Kaunda said on the programme, recorded Friday night.

He accused Mrs. Thatcher of "not acting in accordance with the British people" in opposing full sanctions.

She argues that imposition of across-the-board economic measures against South Africa would be ineffective and hurt those they aim to help as well as causing considerable harm to British economic interests.

Malaysia to hang Australians on Monday

PENANG, Malaysia (R) — Convicted Australian drug traffickers Kevin Barlow and Brian Chambers will be hanged on Monday after receiving a last family visit Sunday one of their lawyers said Saturday.

Karpal Singh, lawyer for Barlow, told reporters after failing to get a stay of execution that Barlow's sister Michelle had told him the two families had been told to make a last visit on Sunday and arrange to collect the bodies.

He said he had not heard officially that the men would die on Monday but said it was "common practice" for hanging to take place around dawn the day after the last visit.

Mr. Karpal said he would try to see the governor of Penang again Saturday as he had "obviously misinterpreted our request."

Mr. Karpal and R. Rajasingham and Subash Chandran, counsel for Chambers, failed Saturday to see the governor, who can grant clemency and who rejected their plea for a stay of execution.

Prison officials were not immediately available for comment.

Malaysian Attorney-General, Tan Sri Abu Talib Othman, stunned Penang high court Friday when he said the execution order was on its way to the jail, despite a pledge by Penang's legal adviser to withhold it during litigation.

Chambers and the British-born Barlow were arrested in Penang in November 1983, with 180 grammes (6.3 ounces) of heroin and received mandatory death sentences last July. The supreme court threw out their appeal in December. Witnesses in Kuala Lumpur told Reuters after the rejection of the final plea that they had seen members of the condemned men's families emerge in tears from a visit to the jail. The family members went straight to the Australian High Commission (embassy).

There was no immediate explanation for the embassy visit. In Kuala Lumpur, parliamentary opposition leader Lim Kit Siang said the world would see Malaysia as a bloodthirsty nation if it stopped the two men from exhausting the legal process.

"This has never happened anywhere in the world. It's most scandalous when the case is still in court," said Mr. Karpal in reporting the governor's rejection of the plea.

He argued Friday in the high court that a pardons board had acted improperly by excluding defence counsels from an earlier hearing. The high court has not yet ruled on this charge.

In Hobart, Tasmania Prime Minister Bob Hawke made an eleventh hour plea Saturday for a stay of execution for two Australians due to hang in Malaysia on Monday for drug peddling.

Mr. Hawke sent letters to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir bin Muhammad and the governor of Penang asking that all legal processes and entitlements be fully explored before the death penalty was carried out, a spokesman for Mr. Hawke said.

The spokesman said Mr. Hawke made the appeal after talks in Hobart with Foreign Minister Bill Hayden.

The letters pointed out that while Australia shared Malaysia's aversion to drug trafficking, it remained opposed to capital punishment, the Australian Associated Press said.

Sri Lankan troops kill 8 Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (R) — Eight Tamil guerrillas have been killed by government troops as Sri Lankan mainstream opposition leaders called for a ceasefire between rebels and security forces during current peace talks.

A military spokesman said the guerrillas were shot dead Friday while trying to escape in three boats across a lagoon in eastern Batticaloa after a battle. Four others were captured.

Several opposition leaders have told President Junius Jayewardene to arrange a ceasefire between guerrillas and troops during current peace talks, political sources said.

Mr. Jayewardene has proposed to resolve the conflict between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils by devolving power to elected provincial councils to be set up in the island's nine provinces.

The 79-year-old president held separate discussions with opposition leaders this week ahead of a conference of political parties on July 15 to consider his

new plan.

The sources said Mr. Jayewardene would also hold four-day talks with members of parliament of the ruling United National Party starting on Tuesday, Mr. Jayewardene has said he is prepared to consider suggestions from opposition groups. He is planning to bring draft legislation before parliament next month to implement the plan.

Several opposition parties have welcomed it as providing a basis for negotiations.

Mr. Jayewardene said he had the backing of the Indian government for the plan and he expected New Delhi to persuade the Tamil parties to accept it.

India is mediating between the Sri Lankan government and leaders of Tamil groups who live in the South Indian city of Madras.

Tamils, who form 13 per cent of the island's 15 million people, are demanding a separate state. They accuse the Sinhalese-dominated government of discriminating against them.

U.S. to protest to Harare over critical speech

HARARE (R) — Washington will protest formally to Zimbabwe over a speech criticizing U.S. policy on southern Africa, which prompted former President Jimmy Carter to lead a walk-out from a diplomatic reception, the acting U.S. ambassador said Saturday.

Mr. Carter, who left in a private jet for home Saturday, led U.S., British, West German and Dutch diplomats in quitting a reception to mark the U.S. National Day Friday when Sport Minister David Karimanzira denounced U.S. and British opposition to imposing sanctions against South Africa.

Acting U.S. Ambassador Gibson Lanpher told Reuters he would deliver a written protest before he leaves Zimbabwe after a four-year assignment next week.

"I have already protested orally. About two-thirds of the way through the offending speech I protested to the permanent secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," he added.

Mr. Carter and the diplomats left the luncheon July 4 reception in a central Harare hotel immediately afterwards.

The former president, noted for his anti-South African stance while in office, held talks with Prime Minister Robert Mugabe earlier Friday morning which he later described as friendly and cooperative.

The incident seems certain to chill further already strained relations between Zimbabwe, which will take over leadership of the Non-Aligned Movement in September, and the United States.

Rights of Colombian Indians aired during Pope's visit

POPAYAN, Colombia (R) — Pope John Paul II intervened during a papal rally to allow a Colombian peasant to air human rights grievances, highlighting the plight of the country's Indian minority.

On the fourth day of his week-long visit to Colombia, Pope John Paul II overruled his hosts to listen to a Paéz Indian complaining about violence against peasants and priests in the Colombian highlands.

The Indian, Guillermo Tenorio, cited the 1984 murder of indigenous priest Alvaro Ulcue, an example of government-sanctioned violence against Colombia's underprivileged.

Speaking in the main square of Popayan, a colonial town in the rugged mountains of the south western Cauca region where leftist M-19 guerrillas have strongholds, Tenorio was interrupted in mid-sentence by a local priest who firmly led him away from the microphone.

The Pope, amid shouts of "signe, signe" (go on, go on) from the 100,000-strong crowd, rose to say: "I don't know why they interrupted your representative but I have his text and I will read it with maximum attention."

The Pope, who pledged in his address that the Roman Catholic Church would defend the rights of indigenous people, later mentioned Tenorio to continue.

He finished his prepared speech by asking the pontiff to intervene with the government to ensure respect for Indian values and dignity.

The Friday's incident followed an earlier departure from the Pope's tightly choreographed schedule caused by the 66-year-old pontiff's stay in the steamy tropical coast town of Tumaco, the Pope ignored security precautions by heading for one of the huts on the edge of a dusty field where he had just held a prayer service.

He spent about 10 minutes inside the humble metal-roofed hut. Its startled owner discreetly received \$300 from the Papal secretary, the equivalent of four minimum monthly wages.

Later, the Pope returned to the city of Cali where, addressing tens of thousands of people at an open-air mass, he stressed the sanctity of the family and spoke strongly against abortion.

Human rights issues surfaced again in Cali, where the Pope was visibly moved when a woman read a petition appealing for help to save "the souls and lives" of Colombians who have vanished, many of them feared kidnapped by para-military death squads.

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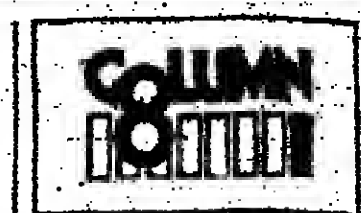
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Priest in a G-string found guilty of indecent exposure

PERTH (R) — A Roman Catholic priest, found guilty of indecent exposure while wearing a tiger-printed G-string, was put on a six-month good behavior bond Friday. A magistrate's court said it was unable to accept Father Edward Patrick Hewitt's evidence that he did not expose himself to a 13-year-old boy and a 14-year-old girl in March this year. Hewitt, 40, told the court he often walked around his front yard in his G-string to cool off after an early morning jog. His defence lawyer Thomas Cullity said his behaviour was a spur of the moment act of exhibitionism.

Boy George rejects heroin allegations

LONDON (R) — British pop star Boy George, who became a household name with a bisexual image of plait, felt hats and frilly skirts, has countered press reports that he was dying of heroin addiction. Several popular British newspapers quoted George, who shot to stardom as lead singer of the Culture Club pop group with such hits as Do You Really Want to Hurt Me?, as saying "I am an out-and-out heroin junkie" and "I've only a few weeks to live." But the singer, nicknamed "gender-bender" before he dropped his long tresses last year in favour of a spiky haircut, declared when posing for photographers outside his fashionable house in West London: "I'm fit enough to run the London marathon." His brother Gerald O'Dowd also rejected the reports. "I have spoken to George and he says he is just fine. He is not ill, and is certainly not going to die from a heroin overdose in eight weeks," George's record company, Virgin, declined comment on the allegations. "It's not for us to say whether it's true or not. What he does in his private life is up to him."

Thais turn out for free hot dogs, vasectomies

BANGKOK (R) — Almost 200 Thai men have celebrated the fourth of July with a hot dog, a cola — and a vasectomy. But the birth control promoters had to turn 19 men away from operating tables set up in the ballroom of a luxury hotel. The Population and Community Development Association (PCDA) marked U.S. Independence Day by offering hot dogs and cola for vasectomies and operated on 196 men. It said Americans would be special guests but only one had the seven-minute operation while a late arrival missed the cut. "The Americans were the first ones to advocate family planning and they helped us launch our programme," PCDA Secretary General Mechai Viravaidya told Reuters.

Backer makes huge win

MANCHESTER, England (R) — A backer who invested \$4 (\$6) in a combination bet on seven horses collected \$120,694 (\$185,000) after six of them won at prices of 33-1, 20-1, 8-1, 15-2, 8-1 and 7-2.

Candidate woos voters with coffins

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A candidate in the general elections has reportedly found a unique way of wooing constituents. He gives away coffins. The English-language daily Bangkok Post reported Saturday that "coffin candidate" Charnchai Pairsatthakul has given away 5,000 coffins over the past four years to families who could not afford proper burials. The Post said that Charnchai, a candidate for parliament from the United Democratic Party, has gained considerable popularity in his northern Thailand district because of his charitable work. Charnchai reportedly pays for the coffins from his own income as well as contributions from donors. The elections are scheduled for July 27. There have been daily press reports of alleged vote-buying and "money dumping" by candidates in various parts of the country, including Charnchai's district. The Post said Charnchai decided to go into coffin-giving after seeing corpses of accident and crime victims being left unburied in the local police station.

15 people killed in one day in Punjab

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Fifteen people were shot to death in the most violent 24 hours in recent weeks in troubled Punjab state, while in New Delhi a watchman was killed in an attack on the home of a Punjabi political leader.

Police said 10 Hindu civilians, a policeman and three Sikh attackers were killed in a spate of attacks and subsequent shootouts Thursday night and Friday.

The United News of India (UNI) reported a farmer was found shot dead Saturday morning in Gurdaspur district. It gave no details.

Punjab Police Chief Julius Rebeiro said one of the slain Sikh attackers was Balbir Singh Billa, who had been involved in most of the terrorist killings in the Tarn Taran area, one of the most violent-plagued parts of Punjab. There was a 100,000-rupee

(\$8,800) reward for Billa's capture, Rebeiro said.

In New Delhi, a watchman was killed and a police guard injured Friday night when unidentified gunmen attacked the residence of Gurbinder Kaur Brar, Chief of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party in Punjab, police said.

Mrs. Brar, a Sikh, was unharmed. Newspapers reported Saturday she was in the house at the time of the shooting in the yard outside. Mrs. Brar had been given police guards because of threats on her life by Sikh extremists.

The bloodiest attacks Friday came outside the Sikh holy city of Amritsar. Police said Sikh militants killed six Hindus and two of the assailants were slain in an ensuing shootout.

Three other assailants escaped after being wounded and police

Peruvian rebels shoot party officials

LIMA (R) — Leftist guerrillas shot two ruling party officials, killing one of them, and bombed Lima offices of foreign missions and the government, police said.

They said Maoist Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) rebels in the central Andean city of Huancayo shot dead Abel Bonet Garcia, 57, a local leader of the Social Democratic American Popular Revolutionary Alliance (APRA).

The rebels pinned to his corpse a threat to kill 10 members of the APRA party for every Sendero member killed when security forces crushed riots in three Lima-area jails last month.

In the southern state of Puno Sendero gunmen wounded the state APRA secretary general, Aquiles Hermosa Palma, in the neck.

A spokesman for the Italian embassy said dynamite was thrown at the mission, leaving a crater in the garden.

Police said dynamite was hurled from a speeding car at the Chinese embassy, blowing out windows and damaging the garage door.

They also reported explosions at a Soviet cultural and language centre and in a top-floor bathroom of the Economy Ministry in central Lima.

No one was injured in any of the blasts. No one claimed responsibility, but police said they were probably the work of Maoist Sendero Luminoso or leftist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels.

Sendero has stepped up attacks in recent days, vowing revenge for the crushing of the jail riots in which at least 156 prisoners died. They have posted signs in Andean cities containing similar threats to the one pinned to Mr. Bonet Garcia's body.

According to the document, the incidence would be 25 per cent to 100 per cent higher than in the United States.

"It's becoming alarming," Mr. Lominy said.

AIDS is a fatal disease that destroys the body's immune system and ability to fight off infection. It can be transmitted through sexual contact or blood transfusions. Medical researchers identify the groups most at risk as homosexuals, intravenous drug users and recipients of frequent blood transfusions.

"Mr. Lominy said that several factors have aggravated the problem in this country, struggling to get back on its feet after 28 years of Duvalier family dictatorship.

He mentioned specifically the "intolerable attitude" of the U.S. Centres for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, which he said wants to restore Haitians to the list of high-risk groups for the disease.

"The (Haitian) people as a whole are not at risk," Mr. Lominy said.

Haitians were initially included on the CDC list of high-risk groups, but were removed after pressure from here and abroad, and evidence that Haitian AIDS sufferers concealed data about homosexual contacts because of societal pressures.

Incidence of AIDS in Haiti 'is alarming'

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The incidence AIDS in Haiti has reached alarming proportions recently, Public Health Minister Michel Lominy has said.

One group of doctors reported 22 new cases of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) this week alone as opposed to an average of 40 cases a month in the past, Mr. Lominy said in an interview.

"It's a considerable number, for a country of 6 million people," the minister said. "It's more important than any other sickness in the country at this moment because we have no cure for it."

There is no official tally of AIDS sufferers in Haiti, but a confidential document from the Public Health Ministry estimates the number at between 150,000 and 675,000 people.

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Independence fireworks light up New York

NEW YORK (Agencies) — New York lit up its night sky with a breathtaking display of fireworks to climax celebrations on land, sea and air for the Statue of Liberty's 100th birthday.

About 40,000 fireworks cascaded over the harbour Friday night in a blaze of colour against Manhattan's soaring skyline.

In a spectacular finale accompanied by crashing cymbals from synchronised music, rockets flared in a circle of fire around Liberty herself.

The statue, donated as a symbol of freedom by France, was rededicated the day before by President Reagan who unveiled it with laser beams after a speech laced with patriotism.

The birthday party and Independence Day festivities started Friday morning with an aerobics display by jets trailing red, white and blue vapour.

The attention of the millions of revellers focused on the harbour between the statue and downtown Manhattan where fireworks sprayed fountains of water dyed, naturally, red, white and blue.

Patriotism was the theme of the day but foreign countries contributed to one of the highlights, a sail-past by 21 fully rigged barques, schooners, brigantines and sloops.

the harbour while on the ground New Yorkers and tourists from the whole range of America's rich ethnic mix toasted the day under clear blue skies.

Police reported a relatively trouble-free day as ordinary people took over the celebrations from the politicians and celebrities.

Most of the crowds congregated along the downtown shoreline, which offered one of the best views of the harbour, studied by thousands of small craft dwarfed by warships.

The normally staid Wall Street financial district was turned into a street fair.

"I've lived here my whole life and never has it been like this," said Sergeant Roberto Mejia, one of 15,000 policemen on patrol in the area.

The only sour note came as the Chilean Navy training ship Esmeralda sailed into view in the tall ships parade, to be met by boos and hisses from some spectators.

Critics of the Chilean military government have charged that opponents of Gen. Augusto Pinochet had been tortured on board.

the bravery of Americans in uniform and prayed "that the call for their courage will never come."

In remarks delivered Friday night aboard the USS John F. Kennedy in New York Harbour, Mr. Reagan kicked off what was billed as the largest fireworks display in U.S. history.

"Let's have some fun. Let the celebration begin," he told the nation and thousands of sailors.

With that, huge bursts of multicoloured fireworks, their shells shot from dozens of barges below, blossomed in the night sky over New York Harbour.

In his remarks, Mr. Reagan recalled his visit to Omaha Beach in Normandy, where Americans fought and died in the allied invasion during World War II.</